

French swing to left shown in local elections

First computer estimates after the polls closed in the first round of France's municipal elections yesterday appeared to confirm that the left has been making inroads into the Government majority. In Paris M Jacques Chirac, the former Prime Minister, was ahead of his official rival, M Michel D'Ornano.

M Chirac is ahead of official rival in Paris

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, March 13

The first ballot of the municipal elections, held today, showed a strong advance of the left in the towns they were to early computer predictions. In Paris predictions gave it 40 per cent, compared with 28 per cent for M Jacques Chirac, the former Prime Minister, and 20 per cent for M Michel D'Ornano, the Government's official candidate.

More than 20 towns of more than 30,000 inhabitants have been lost by the Government majority. The turnout of voters was about 70 per cent, compared with 75 per cent in 1971. In most cases, the left has made gains, but the progress of the left goes to the Socialist Party. The Communists, however, have done better than expected. They have held their ground, according to its projections in the towns they already controlled and showed up well where they led the left in the battle against the Government, as well as at Rheims and Evreux, in Normandy, where six years ago the Socialists were ahead. The predicted fall to the left of the town of Brest, the left's first in the town, is a surprise.

Where the Communists and Socialists could not agree, the Socialists obtained the better score. In Marseilles, for instance, M Gaston Delella, the Socialist mayor, appeared to be leading in seven out of the eight districts of the city.

One of the striking features is the remarkable polling achieved by the ecologist list in Paris and elsewhere in the country. They will in many cases hold the balance in the second round of the elections.

The success of the left is not purely material. It is predicted to gain control of towns like Angers and Dreux which it was never remotely expected to win. Even where the town hall was held by a minister, the left-wing councillor seems to have prevailed, as at St Etienne, where M Durafour, the Minister of Finance, faces a difficult run-off next Sunday, with the Communists in the lead.

M Chirac, summing up the first predictions, said that, when the majority was galvanized, it resisted the left's advance. "I see in this the justification of my action on the national plane".

Some non-party voters also seem to have backed the Socialists, in spite of their alliance with the Communists.

A protester's cardboard placard saying on one side: "Kerr, the last Governor-General", and on the other "Independence for Australia", was thrown at the Queen as she drove in an open car through Sydney's Botanical Gardens today.

According to one eye-witness, it struck her face and fell to the floor of the car. But Mr Ronald Allison, the Queen's press secretary, said that the placard did not hit the Queen, but simply landed in the car.

At Troyes, however, M Galley, the Gaullist Minister for Construction, appeared to have been re-elected against expectations. The last local contests in 1971 attracted little attention, although polling was higher. Today's, however, are the first since the creation of the Union of the Left in June, 1972; they are the first for a century in which Paris has been called on to elect a mayor; and they are taking place within a year of parliamentary elections in which the Government majority is seriously threatened for the first time for 20 years.

The electorate is choosing the councillors and mayors of 36,383 towns and villages, in the vast majority of which local personalities and problems continue to prevail over national issues. The outcome of the poll in Paris and about 50 other big towns where the majority might lose, however, will have a great psychological impact and provide some indication of the chances of the left coming to power in 1978.

The Union of the Left, made up of Communists, Socialists and left-wing Radicals, by introducing party politics into thousands of smaller towns, has produced an unprecedented polarisation of local elections. In 1965 and 1971, triangular contests between the Government majority, the Socialists allied to opposition Centrists and the Communists, were the normal pattern in most of the larger towns. This time they are the exception.

The opposition Centrists have joined the Government majority since the presidential elections in 1974, and the Socialists and Communists are going into battle united in 202 out of 221 towns of more than 30,000 inhabitants. The Government majority, for its part, is united in 204 of them.

The battle for Paris has inevitably been the centre of attention and has tended to monopolize interest. Paris is an exceptional political prize, and the office of mayor is destined to become second only in influence and power to the President's. The majority has split sharply over its possession and the left has seen its chance in this fratricidal conflict.

To provide the capital with a left-wing mayor, the Opposition will have to win four central districts from the majority, in addition to the five it holds already.

Photograph, page 6

Mr Carter planning to travel in Britain

From Fred Emery
Washington, March 13

President Carter is planning to travel in Britain outside London when he attends the Downing Street summit in May. This is one product of the exceptionally cordial meeting here, from which Mr Callaghan, the British Prime Minister, returned home today.

The British tour is intended as an earnest of the special place the President intends giving to what he has called the "mother country" authoritative Administration sources say. And they add, it is meant to be a gesture to Mr Callaghan personally in return for the praise he lavished while here on Mr Carter and the infant Administration.

One well placed source, who said that the precise itinerary must await further planning, suggested it was Mr Carter's way of "showing what we can do for Mr Callaghan".

The last such gesture was when Dr Kissinger, as Secretary of State, flew to Cardiff to attend the ceremony of bestowing the freedom of the city on Mr Callaghan.

Mr Carter was unlikely to go to Cardiff, one source said, but he might be interested in being seen down on the farm with Mr Callaghan.

The Prime Minister left behind him a spirited defence of socialism in Britain, which was nationally televised today. Told in an American Broadcasting Company interview that

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Link with life: For 187 hours, Mrs Elena Enache, a 58-year-old teacher, was buried deep in the wreckage of a Bucharest 10-storey building, after the recent earthquake. Her rescuers attempted and helped to maintain her will to live. She was still clasping the radio when she was exhumed from the debris and taken to hospital, where the above photograph was taken.

Leyland may drop long-term project and shed 25,000 jobs

By Edward Townsend

Concerted efforts to be made this week to end the British Leyland toolmakers' strike will not avert a full review of the car division's operations, with the prospect of tens of thousands fewer jobs in the next year or two and the pruning of the future model programme.

The striking toolroom workers are not due to meet again until Thursday. Even an immediate return by the workers would leave the company with the almost impossible task of building up to and sustaining full production in little more than one week if it was to meet the Government's deadline and avoid a cut-off in further investment by the National Enterprise Board.

After last week's rejection by the strikers of pleas from Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of

the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW) for a return to work, immediate Government intervention is being ruled out. However, Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, is said to be ready to intervene.

The strike is costing Leyland Cars between £10m and £15m a week and although the company will announce on Friday that its 1976 profits were about £75m, that is insufficient to sustain a prolonged closure. Eleven of the 18 car assembly lines are halted and 40,000 workers laid off.

The cash flow position of the state-controlled company is reaching a critical point. The Government's demand for more concentration on short-term measures to sustain earnings rather than the long-term Leyland plan.

That could mean the loss of

mid-April its bankers may at the least be calling for guarantees from the Government.

Once the deadline has been reached the Government will be under intense pressure to intervene and save as many jobs as possible within the car factories and component suppliers' plants. There is also a growing opinion within Leyland that the Government must bring in an independent mediator to attempt to resolve the toolmakers' dispute.

Leyland, however, is certain to tell its main shareholder, the National Enterprise Board, that even with the continued injection of investment capital from public sources it must concentrate on short-term measures to sustain earnings rather than the long-term Leyland plan.

That could mean the loss of

Improved offer after Benn intervention ends Windscale strike

By John Chartres

The six-week-old strike by nearly 3,000 workers at the Windscale nuclear power plant is due to end this morning. The long and bitter dispute, which closed one of the world's biggest commercial nuclear complexes, was resolved yesterday, 48 hours after the intervention of Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy.

A fresh offer from British Nuclear Fuels of £12m in cash and an increase in the special conditions allowance of 21p an hour, subject to further negotiations, was accepted by a 2-1 vote at a meeting of about 2,500 of the men involved.

The settlement came just in time to prevent a possibly ugly situation later this week, because officials of British Nuclear Fuels had made it clear that essential supplies of nitrogen gas would have to be taken past picket lines by Wednesday to ensure the safety of certain parts of the plant. That might have involved the use of troops or even helicopters.

Last week's decision by the pickets to turn away twice a tanker of nitrogen, needed to maintain fire-prevention stocks, surprised the management, for until then they had cooperated on safety. And Mr William Maxwell, the shop stewards' leader, suggested yesterday that that was the "trump card" that had drawn attention to the dispute in London, taken Mr Benn to Cumbria and led to his giving instructions

that negotiations should be resumed. Until Mr Benn's visit, BNF officials had maintained that they could not go beyond their offer of 1p an hour on the special conditions allowance without breaching the pay code. It was not clear yesterday whether Mr Benn had told the management that they could go further.

The lump-sum payment of £120 was seen by many of the strikers yesterday as an admission that to some extent they had been "locked out" of work through no fault of their own.

The dispute began in January when 32 men who issue protective clothing struck because their conditions allowance was only 70p a week, half of that paid to the men to whom they issued the clothing. Workers who could not get to their jobs because they could not draw the essential clothing were sent home without pay although attached to the shop stewards, many of them worked on for four hours to ensure that proper close-down procedures were carried out.

The strikers have been particularly bitter at their low wage rate and have alleged that men employed on contract tractors and others on staff conditions earn disproportionately more for working under the same hazards. Mr Maxwell said yesterday that the latest offer showed that Windscale was now recognized as "a special site".

A summons from the Duke to all Howards

By Philip Howard

In an act of almost medieval piety the Duke of Norfolk is inviting all the Howards to a service of rededication and rehabilitation for one of the founding fathers of their proud family.

He was Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, the poet, who was executed on Tower Hill at about the age of 30 in 1547 on trumped up charges of high treason.

His beheaded remains were eventually reburied in the parish church of Framlingham, the old and pretty little town in Suffolk, and a grand memorial was erected over them by his second son.

It consists of magnificent recumbent effigies of Henry Howard, the poet earl, and his countess; kneeling figures of their two sons and three daughters; an abundance of heraldry and trophies; and a Latin inscription. The earl's body was found directly beneath his effigy when the tomb was opened in 1835.

The past centuries gradually shouldered the tomb. The Duke of Norfolk, who is also Baron Howard of Glossop, has now restored it and the other Howard tombs in Framlingham church. He is inviting all Howards to an ecumenical service to retallow the tombs on July 9.

In a roll-call of feudal grandeur, which sounds like lines from one of Shakespeare's historical plays, the Earls of Arundel, Eppingham, Suffolk and Berkshire, and Viscounts and Barons Howard of Penrhyn and Strathcona have been summoned, along with the heads of other branches of the ramified family.

Other Howards who wish to attend should take note of this, the only intimation, and write for tickets to the Rector of Framlingham, the Rev David Pitcher. A large attendance of Howards is expected, and those without tickets may not find room in the church.

Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, was a wild, ambitious and highly talented young man who fell in the sabbre-toothed power struggle for the succession when Henry VIII was dying.

The nearly married Henry's daughter Mary. And his fiery temper earned him the title of "the most foolish proud boy that is in England".

He was condemned and executed on frivolous charges of treasonably quarrelling the

Continued on page 5, col 3

Move to ease law on cannabis is expected

By Stewart Tendler
Home Affairs Reporter

Liberalization of the law on possession of small amounts of cannabis may be an outcome of Home Office attempts to clear up confusion and uncertainty over cannabis in the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Indications of changes to come may be announced in the House of Lords this week during the debate on the Criminal Law Bill. Discussions among ministers and their advisers at a preliminary stage, but some of the options before them would mean downgrading the offence of possession and removing prison sentences for summary conviction for that offence.

Such changes would take Britain some way towards the road being followed in the United States and some European countries, but there is bound to be opposition and considerable debate within the Home Office before any conclusions are reached.

The need for re-examination has been created by events in the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords. In January the Court of Appeal ruled that possession of the leaf and stalk of the cannabis plant was not illegal, although they contain the active ingredients of cannabis.

Since those parts of the plant include the ingredient, the police were still left with the possibility of prosecuting for possession of a cannabis derivative, which carries stiffer penalties.

That is to be tested by the Court of Appeal later this month. Whatever the court and a possible appeal to the Lords produce, the Home Office is faced with changing the Act.

If possession of the leaf and stalk remains legal, then the Act will have to be changed, if the derivative prosecutory stands, the Act will still have to be changed because the leaf and stalk are less potent than the flowering top of the plant, prohibited in the Act, but their possession would bring greater penalties.

While awaiting the outcome of that conundrum the Home Office finds itself with difficulties over a change in penalties proposed in the Criminal Law Bill.

The Government has proposed that instead of the maximum penalties of six months imprisonment or a £400 fine, or both, on conviction for possession of cannabis before a magistrate's court, future penalties should be three months, or £500, or both.

In February Lord Gifford, supported by other peers, proposed an amendment that there should be only a fine.

The Government is faced with changes in penalties relating to cannabis without knowing exactly where cannabis is and is not for the purposes of the law. It may decide to compromise in the Lords, wait for the law to sort itself out and make changes in the Commons.

At present the Misuse of Drugs Act classifies controlled

drugs under three sections, A, B and C. Drugs in class A draw the heaviest penalties, those in class B less severe penalties, and those in class C less severe still. Cannabis and cannabis resin are in class B, while drugs in class C would still draw prison sentences.

Class C might include the leaves and stalks. Lord Gifford's amendment would make possession of cannabis and cannabis resin free of prison sentences for a summary conviction in class B, while drugs in class C would still draw prison sentences.

A working party of the Standing Advisory Council on Drug Addiction has tentatively suggested downgrading cannabis to class C and freeing a first offence of any penalty of imprisonment for possession.

Another working party on legal and administrative matters has expressed concern over that proposed relaxation of the law.

Drug addicts' centre, page 4

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Drug addicts' centre, page 4

Tate and Lyle Limited

In our issue of January 27, 1977, we published an article by Maurice Corina concerning the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General on the arrangements for the supply of cane sugar in 1975, in which we suggested that the Comptroller and Auditor-General had made grave criticisms of Tate & Lyle.

On a closer reading of the report we now recognize that our interpretation of it was unwarranted, and we accept that there was no indication in the report that the conduct of Tate & Lyle throughout was anything other than correct; and that when accidental errors were made in calculating the costs and profit properly attributable, Tate &

Lyle took the initiative in notifying the Government and fully cooperated in correcting them. There was no "double bookkeeping". We are now informed by Tate & Lyle that at no time did it receive from the Government under the Price Equalization Scheme payments in excess of the amount due.

We also accept that a suggestion made in the article that there was a connexion between these matters and the Government's decision not to refer to the Monopolies Commission Tate & Lyle's bid for Manbré and Garton was incorrect.

We express our sincere apologies to Tate & Lyle for the unjustifiable aspersions contained in the article.

Policeman dies in Ulster car ambush

A policeman in the Royal Ulster Constabulary was shot dead last night when his police car was ambushed near Lisnakea, Co Fermanagh. The Provisional IRA were believed to have been responsible. Police Constable William David Brown, aged 18, was the youngest member of the RUC to be killed since the present emergency. He was also the youngest and joined the force in June last year. Another constable in the car was hit in the arm and a policewoman was hurt when the vehicle crashed.

Media clash, page 2

Australia take hold of centenary Test

Australia have taken a hold on the centenary Test match in Melbourne. They dismissed England for 95 in the first innings and have scored 104 for three in their second innings, giving them a lead of 147 runs. Colin Cowdrey, page 10

Treasury sees scope for £1,000m tax cuts

The latest Treasury forecast of the economy confirms that the Chancellor could cut taxes by £1,000m in the Budget without breaching the limits on public sector borrowing set by the IMF loan agreement. The forecast also expects inflation to be lower than appeared likely last December. Page 21

Uganda threat

Uganda has ordered a close watch to be kept on Britons and Americans because they have been sending out "false information". The threat was made after reports that one of President Amin's pilots was seeking asylum in Britain. Page 9

Exams plan revived

The Schools Council is reviving its proposal to replace the A level examination with a system of N (normal) and F (further) levels in the sixth form. Page 4

Three British golds

Britain won three golds and two silver medals in the European indoor athletics championships. In winning the women's 800 metres, Katrina Jane Colebrook equalled the world record. Cliff Temple, page 11

Devolution pessimism

Labour pessimism over the fate of the devolution Bill remains profound after the conference of the party in Scotland. Ministers expect to go into the May local elections unable to do more than repeat the party's commitment to devolution. Page 3

Rome takes tough line

All public demonstrations in Rome have been banned until further notice. The decision comes after a weekend of violence in the capital and in other Italian cities including Bologna and Turin. Fourteen policemen were injured in clashes with students. Page 6

Charter 77 man dies

Professor Jan Patocka, a leading member of Charter 77, the Czechoslovak civil rights movement, has died in Prague after suffering a cerebral haemorrhage. Professor Patocka was admitted to hospital shortly after being questioned by police for 11 hours. Page 7

By popular demand, the Hele-Hele Bago Quiere comes back to the Hilton.



20 beautiful Philippine girls exotically dancing the Jota de Paragua, the Hele-Hele Bago Quiere and the Bamboo Dance (among others) are likely to be a popular event.

So popular were they last time they appeared at the Hilton that we've asked them to come back again. If you'd like to watch them, for the first or second time, ring 01-493 8000 now to reserve your dinner table.

Fiesta Filipina Dance Company, at the London Hilton Roof Restaurant, 8th March-2nd April.

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Move against BBC

A Glasgow solicitor is to seek a court order today to prevent the BBC showing a film in which youths produced hatchets and a sword. Page 2

Pakistan: Strikes and protests

alleged rigging of election to go ahead in spite of offer of meeting from Mr Bhutto. Page 7

Florida: Four-page Special Report

Florida: Four-page Special Report

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HOME NEWS

Protest by MP over Korean car imports

Mr Eric Hoyle, Labour MP for Nelson and Colne, is to protest in the Commons that a car made in Korea with British help may soon make a "massive" incursion into the British market at the expense of the Pony car, which is expected to sell in Europe from about £2,000, is made by the Hyundai company in Korea. Mr Hoyle said: "Not only did the expertise of former Leyland employees help to start this company but, even more ironic, Leyland did the tooling for it."

"Because of that, which I regard as a scandal in itself, there was no capacity for the tooling of the new Mini. So the contract went to Ford, who were producing a rival to the Mini."

Mr Hoyle said the influx of the Pony into Britain would be "the greatest demonstration of the inflicted wounds our home motor industry has yet indulged in."

Mr Hoyle said that British engineers are testing the Pony, which is on display at the Geneva motor show this week, to give it the "go-ahead" to be sold in this country. At a time when British Leyland were in difficulties the new Korean company was emerging as a serious competitor.

British Leyland said yesterday that it had done tooling work for Hyundai but it would not affect the new Mini. The tooling work being done by Ford for Leyland was for a luxury car, not the new Mini.

Hyundai's sales abroad are expected to be about 10,000 cars a year. No date has been set for the Pony's introduction to Britain.

Glue cars "safe": British Leyland replied yesterday to criticism of the company after it was disclosed that some new Princess and Allegro cars had parts glued together. Faults appeared in the suspension linkage in a "few models" in January and the company was unable to get new parts because of a dispute at the Cowley factory.

Distributors were advised to use glue as a temporary repair measure, the company said. The glue was widely used and there was "no safety implication at all."

The Cowley dispute was now over and the parts would be fitted under warranty.

Bronze Age purchase

The British Museum has paid £300 for 90 Bronze Age weapons found off Dover harbour and believed to be from the earliest known shipwreck in British waters, about 3,000 years old.

Man in the news: Mr Richard Francis Standing up to the BBC's critics

From Christopher Walker, Belfast

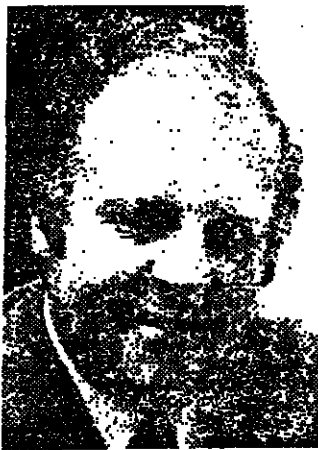
Behind the presenters whose faces are familiar to the viewing public, the man at the heart of the new controversy over BBC coverage of events in Northern Ireland is Mr Richard Francis.

An affable Yorkshireman, whose relaxed manner belies the daily pressures of his job, he has been regional controller since September, 1973, and at the age of 43 is tipped in some circles as a potential future director-general.

Mr Airey Neave, Conservative spokesman on Northern Ireland, has joined the growing list of critics who have raised the wider question of the corporation's role during a terrorist campaign in the wake of the *Tonight* programme's allegations against Belfast detectives.

In addition, the local television current affairs programme, *Spotlight*, is being "blackened" by technicians after an interview with an unnamed member of a fringe republican group, the Irish National Liberation Army.

As well as overseeing the output of BBC Northern Ireland, Mr Francis is personally responsible for every BBC programme relating to the province. All plays ing to the province, all plays



Mr Richard Francis: "Truth is indivisible."

about Ulster have to be seen in advance and all documentary producers from London have to seek Mr Francis's sanction before advancing on particular projects.

Among BBC staff he is noted and respected for the frequency with which he has stood up to government pressure and to the continual barrage of self-interest criticism from local politicians on either side of the religious divide.

Soon after his arrival at the heavily guarded Broadcasting House in Belfast he was plunged

into the complexities of the Ulster workers' strike. That gave him ample scope to demonstrate the BBC's determination to maintain its independence in the face of difficulties never before experienced in Britain. In spite of bitter local criticism for broadcasting the telephone number of the strike leaders' office, none of his decisions was overturned in London.

"My policy is not to adopt any special criteria for covering Northern Ireland", Mr Francis told me. "We just have to try to be more professional than in other more normal situations. In my book truth is indivisible."

He remains adamant that the recent *Tonight* allegations were checked and cross-checked as closely as possible before being broadcast. He strongly rejects suggestions that the programme should not have been shown at a time of increasing IRA violence. "You do not tamper with timing, as you do not tamper with facts."

Although Mr Francis had the theoretical power to stop the interviews being broadcast in Northern Ireland, he believes that suppression of the allegations would have had much more damaging consequences. "When we are under pressure we have to be doubly sure of all our facts," he said. "The resolve not to be pressured becomes greater than ever."

Media heading for new clash on Ulster

From a Staff Reporter, Belfast

After a spate of serious allegations against members of the security forces, a fresh confrontation is looming between the British media and the Government and Opposition over coverage of the continuing violence in Northern Ireland.

The battle lines were first drawn up at a dinner in a Belfast hotel last November, when the Secretary of State, Mr Mason, launched an angry personal attack against senior BBC executives for aspects of their editorial policy.

Since then a number of incidents have increased the friction. The most notable were the broadcast on the *Tonight* programme of detailed brutality allegations against the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the publication yesterday in *The Sunday Times* of an article saying that the Army in Ulster indulged in a range of "dirty tricks" between 1972 and early 1976.

Mr Mason has requested his officials to telephone journalists with a strongly worded public condemnation of the BBC for its handling of the *Tonight* programme. That move was followed on Saturday by Mr Airey Neave's speech accusing the corporation of undermining the propaganda war in Ulster.

A senior civil servant is understood to have telephoned the BBC to try to convince executives that one of the subjects in the *Tonight* interviews was a prominent Provisional IRA organizer. It has also been suggested to local journalists that D notices might be used to restrict certain reports considered as helpful to terrorists.

The only official Army comment came in a statement from Lisburn. It said of *The Sunday Times* article: "It is a hotchpotch of old allegations almost all of which have appeared over the years in other Irish and British newspapers. We do not propose to react to them in any detail, now or in the future."

The *Sunday Times* said that between 1972 and last year the Army's campaign against the IRA had led to involvement in a number of "bizarre activities". It emphasized that none covered the period since Mr Mason took over at Stormont last September.

According to the paper's unnamed sources the Army had, among other things, attempted to discredit two Ulster poli-

ticians and influence government policy by issuing false information. It also suggested that troops had set off explosions in border areas to create confusion about IRA activity and planted ammunition on suspects during questioning.

One reason for the increased sensitivity of the Government to allegations against the security forces is the recent hearing of the case between Ireland and Britain before the European Court of Human Rights.

That demonstrated the damage to Britain's international reputation that can arise from the behaviour of soldiers and policemen in Ulster, and ministers are keenly aware that another session is due to open in Strasbourg next month.

Although Mr Mason has been critical of certain aspects of the media's treatment of Northern Ireland news, he has said in an open letter to the local branch of the National Union of Journalists that he is not in favour of censorship.

A fuller indication of his view is likely to emerge in an hour-long interview to be broadcast on ITV's *People and Politics* programme tonight.

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Propaganda war being lost, Tory MP says

By Our Political Reporter

The controversy over the BBC's coverage of Ulster developed at the weekend when Mr Airey Neave, Conservative spokesman on Northern Ireland, accused the corporation of forgetting its responsibilities in the fight against terrorism.

Mr Neave's comments add to criticisms before a final Cabinet decision is taken, it would appear that a system of proportional representation is not a strong runner.

Speaking in his Abingdon constituency on Saturday, Mr Neave said: "We are losing the propaganda war in Northern Ireland. The security forces may make arrests, but the propaganda is as lethal as a gun or a bomb. A review of present attitudes to media freedom is therefore needed to take account of a desperate emergency."

He then commented: "Some of the media deny that we are really 'at war' with terrorism. Some off their actions actually stimulate the hardcore terrorists. The BBC in particular is guilty on the security situation in Northern Ireland with studied grandiloquence and ignore the true dangers."

Mr Neave referred to a lecture by Mr Richard Francis, BBC controller in Northern Ireland, who spoke of the duty of the media of "impartially reflecting significant forces in society, of whatever origin, as much as supporting democratic institutions not wholly accepted."

This, Mr Neave said, purported to be a guideline for a broadcasting authority in a part of the United Kingdom on the brink of civil war where the Government was fighting a ruthless group of terrorists.

On March 2, the BBC *Tonight* programme interviewed two men who alleged brutality by the Royal Ulster Constabulary during interrogation after which no charges were made against them.

Mr Neave added: "This *Tonight* programme interviewed the most damaging effects on morale in the RUC. In justifying it on grounds of 'impartiality', the BBC have given the impression that they are not taking the side of the civil power in Northern Ireland. In elevating themselves above the struggles and duties of lesser mortals, they have lost sight of their responsibilities in Northern Ireland."

Rising homelessness cannot be attributed to a high level of new arrivals in London, the report says. Department of Environment statistics show that 95 per cent of homeless families accepted by the London

'MPs only' proposal for Europe elections

By Michael Hatfield, Political Reporter

The Government's tentative proposals for direct elections to the European Parliament have reached an advanced stage and it is expected that further Cabinet discussions on the planned consultative White Paper will be held shortly.

While the White Paper will contain a number of options, which will be discussed in Parliament before a final Cabinet decision is taken, it would appear that a system of proportional representation is not a strong runner.

Although proposals for PR are expected to be discussed, many ministers do not like the idea, not least because it would create a furor in some sections of the party. It has become clear that heavy concentration has been given in the White Paper on averting another battle in the party over the European issue.

One proposal being canvassed at Cabinet level is a "dual mandate" system, in which only MPs would be able to stand in the European Parliament elections. One great

attraction of the idea is that it would remove at least in part, the anti-EEC argument that Parliament will progressively lose its sovereignty. Members of Parliament elected to the European Parliament would retain their direct links with Westminster.

The proposition, it is believed, has found some degree of favour among prominent anti-EEC Cabinet ministers such as Mr Foot, Leader of the Commons, Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, and Mr Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

To avoid a bewildering surfeit of elections, for local councils, Scottish and Welsh assemblies, Westminster and the European Parliament, it is suggested that under the "dual mandate" system, the European elections could be held at the same time as those for Westminster.

But the European Parliament has a fixed four-year term, whereas the Westminster elections can be held at any time during a five-year period. There are, of course, other objections, including opposition to MPs holding two parliamentary jobs.

Housing cuts 'are leading to disaster in London'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

London is heading for a housing disaster unless present policies are changed, the Shelter Housing Aid Centre says in a report today. It suggests that public expenditure cuts are threatening with collapse housing programmes intended to tackle the accommodation crisis in London, where housing need has never been higher.

The report points out that the fall in the population of London has slowed so significantly in the past two years that the decline can no longer be relied on to provide an automatic solution to the capital's housing needs.

Meanwhile, homelessness has reached its highest level, although official statistics obscure the fact that tens of thousands of homeless people are not known.

Rising homelessness cannot be attributed to a high level of new arrivals in London, the report says. Department of Environment statistics show that 95 per cent of homeless families accepted by the London

boroughs were living in London previously.

Meanwhile, council waiting lists have become overstretched, reaching a total of 213,000 by December, 1976.

The report rules out private renting as an answer to the needs of the homeless and badly housed, because the long established decline of the sector has been caused by the poor economic return for landlords over the years.

The remaining options are all seriously affected by public expenditure cuts, the report says. Private house building in London has fallen sharply, and both public and private rehabilitation and improvement programmes are threatened by expenditure cuts.

Council house building is about to slump, the rate of acquisition has slowed to a trickle, and the axe is about to fall on new town programmes that are only just beginning to provide an effective channel for Londoners needing homes.

Housing in London—the Continuing Crisis, by Christine Hammond (SIAAC, 189, Old Brompton Road, London, SW5 0AR, £1 plus 15p postage).

Bakers appeal to minister in dispute on price rises

By Hugh Clayton

Bakers have asked Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, to rule in their favour in a dispute about price rises with the rice commission. When the Government fixed the last rise on bread the bakers' increase was cut while shopkeepers were enabled to make more profit.

Bread companies want cuts in profits caused by their increasing discounts to grocers to be replaced by allowable costs in applications for price rises. The commission has rejected that claim on the ground that it would make some shopkeepers pay more for bread because others were paying less.

The commission's ruling on the last increase meant that companies were prevented from charging an extra 1p for a small loaf when they raised the price of a large one by 1p.

Officials at Mr Hattersley's department confirmed that with the price ceiling raised while discount bands were not changed the shop profit margin was allowed to rise. The discount bands contain the price cuts shops have to make when they win large discounts from bakers.

Under the previous price tariff, the department said, a grocer who bought loaves at a discount of 22 1/2 per cent would have to cut the price of a large loaf by 1p from the Government ceiling of 21p. That would give him a net profit of 3.725 per cent.

The new ceiling is 22p but the cut required in shops at each discount band is unchanged. Thus a grocer at 22 1/2 per cent discount still has to cut by only 1p. That, the department explained, would now allow him a net margin of 3.95 per cent.

Firm action urged to deter young smokers

By Our Science Editor

Legislation aimed at reducing smoking fails to tackle the most important object, preventing smoking by children and young people under the age of 21. That is regarded as the most serious deficiency in a World Health Organization survey of legislation around the world.

In fact, only 30 countries have taken any formal action, and the measures they have introduced embrace few provisions that could be expected to succeed.

That rather gloomy picture is unaltered by the tighter advertising controls on certain categories of high-tar cigarettes (29mg or more) and other proposals, made by Mr Ennals, the Social Services Secretary, last week.

Legislative Action to Combat Smoking Around the World (World Health Organization).

Move to form one union for top civil servants

By Tim Jones, Labour Reporter

One powerful union to represent the views of top civil servants may emerge as a result of discussions that are to take place between the Institution of Professional Civil Servants and the Association of First Division Civil Servants (FDCS).

Mr William McCall, general secretary of the 100,000-strong institution, believes there are no insuperable differences. His proposals would ensure that if there was an amalgamation, the FDCS and the Association of Inspectors of Taxes (AIT), to which it is closely linked, would have executive authority over their own affairs.

Mr McCall suggests that during a transitional period, which could be three years, the FDCS and the AIT would have reserved seats on the amalgamated union's national executive.

At its last conference the FDCS reaffirmed the willingness of its 10,000 members to develop closer links with other associations but made it clear that any essential precondition of any discussions was the retention of a "separate and distinct" voice by the top grades it represents.

A possible stumbling block could be that, while the Institution of Civil Servants (ICS), the FDCS is not, although there is a growing mood in favour of such a move.

NHS 'failing to maintain hospitals' fabric'

By a Staff Reporter

The National Health Service is failing to renew its buildings adequately, according to its works officers, who maintain the fabric of Britain's hospitals. In their submission to the Royal Commission on the NHS they say that £210m is needed to replace equipment operating well past its estimated lifetime.

The figure is much higher for buildings, as considerably more than half the country's hospitals were built before 1914.

Last year the works section of the NHS had a budget of £500m, a staff of more than 28,000.

The NHS must not "burn the floorboards to keep the house centrally heated", they say. "The efficiency of the clinical functions in the service depends increasingly on the existence and smooth operation of its buildings and complex service."

Letters, page 17

Attempt to stop BBC showing film on violence

From Martin Huckerby, Glasgow

An attempt to stop the showing of a film about violence in east Glasgow on BBC television's *National Geographic* programme of two youths who appear in the film waving weapons.

The youths regret producing arms for the graduation of television viewers, Mr Kevin Breslin, their solicitor, said.

He intends to go to court in Glasgow today to seek an interim interdict against the film. That move will be strongly opposed by the BBC, which paid eight youths a total of £5 after the filming.

Keyphone.

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Key the number into the Keyphone and it will do the rest. In fact, the more your business uses the telephone, the more you'll appreciate the Keyphone's convenience. The local Telephone Sales Office will be pleased to supply details.

Post Office Telecommunications

Chief constable cleared after inquiry

From Our Correspondent, Nottingham

An inquiry has cleared Mr Charles McLachlan, Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, and several of his senior officers of allegations of conspiracy, inefficiency and breach of discipline. The inquiry was carried out by Mr Stanley E. Bennett, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire.

He says in a report to Nottinghamshire Police Authority that he has found no evidence to support allegations, made last December by a man from Hathersley, Leicestershire, that there was "conspiracy" between certain police officers.

The man also made allegations against Nottinghamshire's deputy chief constable and assistant chief constable, a police superintendent, an inspector and a councillor. Frank Warsop, chairman of the county police authority. They were all cleared by the inquiry. Councillor Warsop said of the report: "Any person who makes a complaint against the police has the right to have it considered."

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First meeting of political honours group

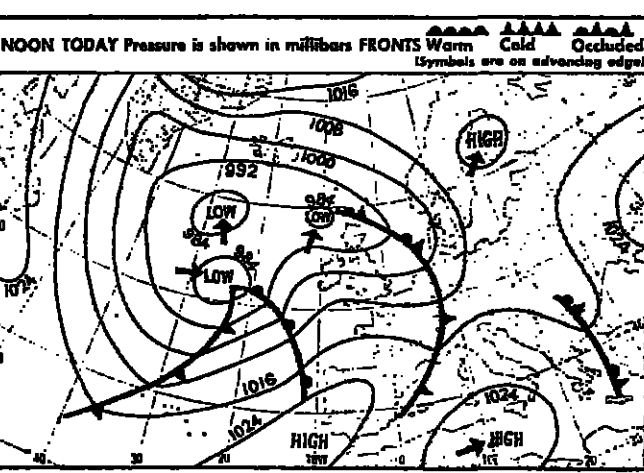
By Our Political Staff

An informal meeting of the new members of the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee, appointed by Mr Callaghan as Prime Minister, is to be held next month.

The members are Lord Shackleton, a Labour life peer, Lord Carr of Hadley, former Minister of State, and Lord Franks, former British Ambassador in Washington.

Members of the committee have not yet met formally because there were no "political honours" in the New Year list.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 6.17 am
Sun sets: 6.31 pm
Moon rises: 12.26 pm
New Moon: March 19, 3.10 am
Lighting up: 6.33 pm to 12.45 am
High water: London Bridge, 8.32 am, 6.1m (20.1ft); 9.5 pm, 6.0m (19.8ft). Avonmouth, 1.31 am, 10.1m (33.1ft); 2.20 pm, 10.0m (32.8ft). Dover, 6.1 am, 5.5m (18.2ft); 6.47 pm, 5.5m (18.0ft). Hull, 12.43 am, 5.0m (16.4ft); 1.17 pm, 5.9m (19.3ft). Liverpool, 6.5 am, 7.7m (25.2ft); 6.36 pm, 7.5m (24.7ft).

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:
London, East Anglia, Midlands, S. SE, N. NE and NW England, Lake District, N. Wales, N. Ireland, Isle of Man, Channel Islands: Sunny intervals and heavy showers, possibly hail and thunder; wind W, fresh or strong; max temp 11°C (52°F).

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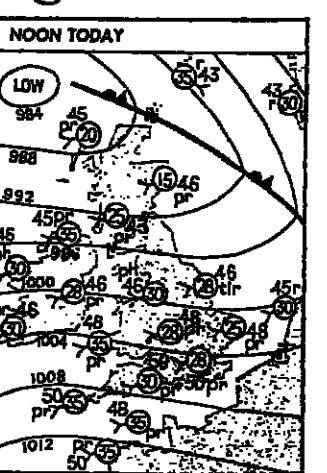
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Overseas selling prices
New York: 1.0000
London: 1.0000
Frankfurt: 1.0000
Paris: 1.0000
Rome: 1.0000
Milan: 1.0000
Bari: 1.0000
Genoa: 1.0000
Naples: 1.0000
Palermo: 1.0000
Catania: 1.0000
Messina: 1.0000
Syracuse: 1.0000
Agrigento: 1.0000
Trapani: 1.0000
Mazara del Vallo: 1.0000
Comiso: 1.0000
Gela: 1.0000
Caltanissetta: 1.0000
Marsala: 1.0000
Syracuse: 1.0000
Agrigento: 1.0000
Trapani: 1.0000
Mazara del Vallo: 1.0000
Comiso: 1.0000
Gela: 1.0000
Caltanissetta: 1.0000
Marsala: 1.0000

'Let parents watch their child in class'

HOME NEWS

Revival of N and F level examinations plan may be kiss of life for minority subjects

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

Thousands of copies of proposed syllabuses for a new national set of examinations to replace the A level General Certificate of Education (GCE) will be sent to schools and businesses in the autumn by the Schools Council, the Government-sponsored body that advises on the curriculum.

An old plan to broaden sixth-form studies with a five-subject examination system (instead of three) has taken on a new lease of life. Its suggested N (Normal) and F (Further) levels, which were rejected by the committee in 1971, are no longer the dead ducks that many schools believed them to be.

The results of an exercise involving the new examination in 19 schools will be published by the council early next year, and a full report will be given by the council's joint examinations subcommittee. The plan can then be the subject of a general debate before the full council decides in 1979 whether to endorse it and submit it to the Government. If approved, it could be operating by 1984, and A levels would be abolished in that year.

The plan was dropped by the council in 1971 after it had been rejected by most educational establishments, particularly the universities, which

believed that it would lower standards. Its revival is likely to cause as much controversy as the council's recent proposals to merge GCE O-level and the Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE) examinations, now being investigated by a Government committee.

As reported in *The Times* on Saturday, Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, called for changes in the traditional concentration on three subjects at A level in the sixth form. She said at a meeting of the Association of Assistant Masters on Friday that too early specialization was bad for a trading nation and she complained that many pupils were dropping mathematics and foreign languages too soon. The advocates of the N and F plan are hoping, therefore, for her support.

Under the plan, pupils, after taking their 16-plus examination (O-level or CSE), would be required at 18-plus to pass three subjects at N level and two at F level if they wished to proceed to higher education. N level would require half, and F level three-quarters, of the study time spent on an A-level course.

Mr Rupert Booth, the Schools Council's senior educational adviser, told a meeting of head teachers at Reading University on Saturday that 13,000 copies of 56 syllabuses covering 16 subject areas

would be sent to schools and companies, probably in the early autumn.

The council expects to publish in January a 256-page report by its joint examinations subcommittee on the resource implications of its plan. The report, now nearly completed, finds that the new examination system would not require more teachers, if schools with fewer than 150 pupils in the sixth form were prepared to teach N and F level pupils in the same classes.

The subcommittee's report is based on a survey in which 2,802 sixth-formers in 19 schools and students in five colleges of further education were asked to pretend that the plan was in operation and to choose their subjects. The schools were then asked to draw up timetables.

Preliminary findings indicate that considerably more pupils would study subjects at N and F levels than are at present on A-level courses. The numbers taking mathematics would increase by about half, and twice as many girls would take the subject. The numbers taking geography would double, and those taking Latin would nearly treble.

Professor Jack Allanson, of Birmingham University, a member of the subcommittee, told the meeting that the evidence showed that N and F

would give the kiss of life to minority subjects that were in danger of dying out in many schools.

He said that most sixth-formers had chosen a good balance of subjects in three or four different areas. That meant that some of the schools would have had to put subjects on the sixth-form timetable for the first time.

He said that many sixth-formers chose Latin, Greek, Spanish, Italian, Russian and German, which they were not going to study under the present A-level system. Professor Allanson thought that the N and F plan might end the bias in the English education system against brighter pupils doing technology and design subjects in the sixth form.

He said afterwards: "Shirley Williams's speech on Friday was marvellous. I now hope she will back a discussion on the N and F proposals as part of the next round of the great debate on education for the 16 to 19-year-olds."

Religious change call: Ending the system of denominational voluntary church schools in favour of interdenominational "Christian schools" with greater state support for capital costs, might help to ease the church's debts, Mr William van Straubenzee, Conservative MP for Wokingham, said in Nottingham on Saturday.

Law Society to study black list of lawyers

By Clive Borrell
Crime Correspondent

The disciplinary committee of the Law Society is to examine a Metropolitan Police black list containing the names of 30 lawyers who specialize in defending professional criminals.

The existence of the list was first revealed more than three years ago by Sir Robert Mark, when, as Commissioner, he delivered the Dimsdaley Lecture on BBC Television. He said then:

"The kind of behaviour I have in mind is often easy for the police to recognize but almost impossible to prove. We see the same lawyers producing off the peg the same kind of defence for different clients. Prosecution witnesses suddenly and inexplicably change their minds."

Defences are concocted, far beyond the intellectual capacity of the accused. False alibis are put forward, and so on—involving a sort of bitter struggle of wits and tactics between the detective and the lawyers.

Public accusations of misconduct, however, have always been one-sided, with the result that the doubts about the criminal trial mostly centre upon police conduct, as if the police alone had a motive for improper behaviour.

Let there be no doubt that a minority of criminal lawyers do very well from the proceeds of crime. A reputation for success, achieved by persistent lack of scruple in the defence of the most disreputable, soon attracts other clients who see little hope of acquittal in any other way.

Experienced and respected Metropolitan detectives can identify lawyers in criminal practice who are more harmful to society than the clients they represent. A copy of the list, marked "highly confidential", and containing the names of barristers, solicitors and legal office staff, has been handed to the Law Society by *The Sunday Times*.

It is unlikely that the disciplinary committee will be able to take action against those named. An official observed: "If the police, with all their resources, cannot make the allegation stick, there is little chance that we shall be able to."

Kidney appeal

From today learner drivers applying for licences will receive a card authorizing the use of their kidneys for transplants in the event of their death, whether in a road accident or not.

It is hoped that many drivers will sign the cards, thus increasing the supply of kidneys, which are urgently needed.

Attack on 'arbitrary' Treasury cash limits

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Edward du Cann, Conservative MP for Taunton and chairman of the powerful Public Accounts Committee, will attack the Treasury's system of cash limits later this month on the ground that they undermine parliamentary control of public expenditure.

His criticisms will appear in a pamphlet prepared for the Conservative Political Centre. They could be reflected in a report on the workings of cash limits during their first year in operation to be published by the Public Accounts Committee in the next few weeks, after a special investigation by Sir Douglas Hensley, the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Cash limits are now applied to three quarters of central government spending. With the new machinery for monitoring monthly cash flows, known in Whitehall as the financial information system, cash limits are the critical weapon in the Treasury's attempt to reassert control over public expenditure after the setbacks of 1971-74.

In an interview with *The Times* last week Mr du Cann said: "Cash limits are set arbitrarily by Treasury ministers. They have never been the subject of parliamentary discussion or decision and are a further weakening of parliamentary control."

He also expressed disquiet with the form and content of

the White Papers on public expenditure published by the Treasury in recent weeks. They represented an abandonment of the principles set out in the Plowden report of 1961.

The Treasury had never fulfilled the Plowden recommendation that a continuous evaluation of the division of resources between the public and private sectors should be made. Now the system of five-year forward projections of spending had been discontinued, adversely affecting the quality of information on which MPs could base their judgments.

Mr du Cann has corresponded with the Prime Minister in an attempt to improve Parliament's watchdog powers through a merger of the Public Accounts and Expenditure committees. Mr Callaghan has suggested that any reform should await the report of the Select Committee on Procedure later this year.

Mr du Cann welcomed a suggestion by Sir Derek Rayner, joint managing director of Marks and Spencer and former chief executive of the Ministry of Defence procurement executive, in his evidence before the Expenditure Committee that the whole tone of Whitehall could be changed if the Public Accounts Committee praised examples of efficient management as well as criticizing failures.

Human right convention 'unsuitable' for UK

By Our Legal Correspondent

The European Convention on Human Rights is entirely unsuitable for incorporation into British law, the Law Society's law reform committee says in a memorandum published today. Making the convention part of national law would preclude the outcome of the debate on the need for fundamental constitutional change, by shifting the centre of gravity of the constitution away from Parliament towards the judiciary.

The memorandum says that by concentrating on the desirability of introducing legislation on the lines of the European convention, last year's consultative document on a Bill of Rights had avoided the real issue, which was to determine what changes were needed in Britain's fundamental constitutional structure, and particularly the relationship between Parliament, the executive and the judiciary.

"We now find ourselves debating a proposal to enact into domestic law a series of directly enforceable human rights, formulated in the vaguest and most general terms and subject to almost equally vague qualifications", the committee comments.

"Such a proposal is so totally at variance with traditional methods of law-making in this country that it seems to us to make no sense except as part of a proposal for a complete overhaul of our fundamental constitutional arrangements."

Sir Robert says 'bail jumpers' live off crime

One of the last documents to be signed by Sir Robert Mark before he retired as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police at the weekend was a memorandum to the Home Office pointing out the high incidence of crime committed by "bail jumpers".

A survey in London during the past six months shows that at any one time there are 3,000 to 4,000 adults living off crime after failing to surrender to their bail.

Sir Robert said in an interview published in *The Sunday Times* yesterday: "They are living off crime because they are unable to secure employment or social security benefits. Yet the new Act provides for a presumption in favour of bail and shows yet again how new legislation is rarely properly researched before being brought in."

City buyers arouse farmers' suspicions

A new figure has moved to the front line in farmers' demagogues. He progresses slowly through the countryside in a purple limousine. From time to time he stops and leans languidly forward from the ample cushions. He stares expressionless at the landscape, then uses the end of a rolled umbrella to tap the driver into renewed motion.

Some farmers are more worried about purchases of estates by foreign buyers or City finance houses than they are about nationalization of farmland. The latter has been adopted in the policy of the Labour Party and the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers but rejected by Mr Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Finance houses, insurance companies and pension funds which buy agricultural land arouse resentment in farmers for four reasons. First, they appear to have plenty of ready cash. Secondly, they do not die and therefore escape the burden of capital transfer tax which overakes the descendants of inescapably mortal family farmers.

Thirdly, they want the best land and have the resources with which to buy it. That evokes visions of practising farmers being forced off the lush lowlands into the hills. Fourthly, the financial institutions are targets for suspicion in the agricultural com-

Agriculture

Hugh Clayton

munity about the entry of non-farmers who appear to have no lasting commitment to farming. Such institutional landowners have their defenders. They include surveyors and agents who depend for a living on commissions and therefore have a vested interest in encouraging a busy and diverse market for farms.

Land attracts institutions for many of the reasons that make it look desirable to foreign buyers. The price of what is produced on the land is being pulled up in real terms by the operation of EEC farm policy; the Government favours expansion of food output at home and estates in Britain are considered to be in less danger of bombing, armed attack or seizure by the state than elsewhere.

Moreover, the Government has shown by deferring wealth tax and diluting the effect of capital transfer tax that it will accept at least part of the case for the private landowner against the demands of some of its supporters.

The alternative government would accept that case even more cheerfully.

Many farmers are confused about the position of financial institutions as owners of British farms. They sometimes seem to think in almost Orwellian terms: "Family owners good, institutional owners bad."

Yet most land that belongs to institutions now has been owned by them for 40 years or more. The figure of 9 per cent of farmland in England and Wales is used widely as a measure of institutional ownership. But that figure, which was not used much until the Country Landowners' Association quoted it in a discussion paper, applies to all institutions.

It includes land owned by the Crown, the church, local authorities and government departments, as well as the holdings acquired more recently by City finance houses and other corporate bodies. Much less is quoted with authority in public about the amount of land those financial bodies hold. The most likely figure now is between 220,000 and 260,000 hectares, or little more than a fifth of the total.

The penetration of corporate institutions is greater in the arable counties of the eastern half of England than in Wales or the rest of England. Their holdings may amount to as much as a twentieth of the total farmland area of

Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire taken together.

Their purchases matter more than their holdings, however, and that is where concern about their role should be concentrated. It is clear that their intense interest in farmland since the price boom of 1973 has brought them only a tiny fraction of the total farm area in England and Wales, which in turn represents only a minute section of their investment portfolios.

Farmers are worried about the effect of institutions on land prices. But they should worry more about the impact of institutional buying than of institutional ownership. That is because the amount of land owned is vastly greater than the amount being sold.

Less than a fifth of British farmland changes hands through sale each year. Last year almost a quarter of the small proportion sold in England and Wales was bought, and in a few cases sold, by financial institutions. That is where the fiscal advantage of the institutional buyer, now being investigated by the National Farmers' Union, assumes an important role.

Most farms will be owned by farmers, despite the entry of financial institutions to the market. But the value of the land held by some of those farmers may be affected by institutional activity.

ONE EMOTIONAL REASON FOR BUYING THE NEW VOLVO 264 GLE.



مكزائن الأحمال

WEST EUROPE

Battles on streets of Rome bring night of terror to capital in Italy's worst disorders since war

From Patricia Clough
Rome, March 13

The Italian Government today banned all public demonstrations in Rome after a weekend of violence and destruction. Last night the streets of the city were virtually deserted. People were afraid to go outside, only emerging from their homes to stand huddled in doorways.

According to the latest official figures, 14 policemen were injured, one critically, and 18 demonstrators were arrested and 100 detained. The violence also erupted in Bologna and to a lesser extent in Milan and Turin.

For seven hours Rome was in the grip of full-scale urban warfare. Two gun shops were ransacked for firearms, innumerable shops, cafés and hotels were damaged and hundreds of cars and many buses were smashed up, overturned or burnt. The offices and newspaper of the ruling Christian Democrat Party were attacked with petrol bombs.

As calm returned after midnight, carloads of guerrillas were reported to be leaving the city at high speed, firing at police manning roadblocks.

The battle had started as a peaceful demonstration by 50,000 students from all over Italy to protest against youth unemployment and plans by the Government and the Communist Party for the long-promised university reforms.

But in the preceding days events had combined to whip up

tension. A left-wing student, Fabrizio Pannofino, had been jailed for more than nine years on highly controversial grounds for "moral" complicity in the shooting of a Greek student during a demonstration, and at Bologna another student was shot dead, allegedly by carabinieri, during disturbances at the university.

As a result the demonstration soon deteriorated into what police and journalists agreed was probably the most violent and vicious disorders seen in Italy since the war. While the majority maintained good order, groups of extremists broke away to roam the city spreading fear and destruction. Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Interior Minister, described their actions as a "prearranged and criminal plan of guerrilla warfare". And the youths certainly gave that impression. They moved deliberately and without emotion, calmly doing as much damage as possible, acting in small groups, appearing and disappearing in the maze of narrow streets, difficult to follow and catch.

While the vandalism was clearly intended to upset the public, the gunfire evidently partially succeeded in unnerving the police, already stunned by the cold-blooded assassination of an officer by an extremist group in Turin this morning.

At the Rome police headquarters tension was running so high that the police chief ordered captured demonstrators to be taken to local police stations for questioning, as he could not

guarantee their physical safety at headquarters.

Even more alarming were reports that groups of plainclothes policemen were savagely beating up students heading for home, while uniformed colleagues turned a blind eye.

The Communist Party organ *L'Unità* today branded the disorders as a vast manoeuvre aimed at undermining democracy in Italy. The *Corriere della Sera* said there was a "presumption of endemic civil war". *La Stampa* of Turin urged the Government to stamp out the violence "while there is still time".

At the root of the trouble is the mass unemployment among school and college-leavers. Sociologists have been saying for some months that the situation was likely to explode violently at any moment.

The numbers of unemployed youths are impossible to ascertain when the Labour Ministry's unemployment figure—1,350,000—is almost double that of the Statistics Office. Estimates range from half a million to three million young people alone.

The sense of hopelessness and frustration has turned the universities, particularly that of Rome, into hotbeds of a new extremism. Unlike the university revolt of 1968 there are no political ideals: the Communists are hated as much as the Christian Democrats. The rebels reject politics, the institutions, democracy, the very society from which they feel outcasts.



President Giscard d'Estaing arrives with his wife and father to vote at Chamonat, central France, in the local elections

Rival Masses in Saint Germain

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, March 13

The church occupied by traditionalists, the Roman Catholics of St Nicholas du Chardonnet, on Paris's Left Bank, today attended a modern Mass in the presbytery which is still in their control. Next door, in the seventeenth-century church, more than 2,000 followers of Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre gave themselves to a day of devotion.

In the three weeks since they forcibly occupied the yellowstoned church of St Nicholas, before filing into their respective Masses, the traditionalists and the churchless parishioners fought their verbal battles. "You have turned us into refugees from the church which has been our home since birth," exclaimed a man in his seventies waving his black beret. "There you are wrong" came the reply. "It is the Vatican Council that has turned the whole church into refugees."

With its fine paintings and ornate side chapels, the traditionalists have succeeded in making their presence felt in the French capital. In the early days there were scuffles between the fervent followers of Archbishop Lefebvre and the irate parishioners. But now an uneasy stalemate prevails. Last week one of the traditionalist leaders gave a warning, however, that any attempt to evict them would result in the occupation of the Notre Dame Cathedral.

4,000 sieze stadium in Basque protest

From Harry Debellus
Madrid, March 13

A policeman was shot dead in an ambush near Vitoria today as turmoil continued in the Basque country. In San Sebastian, 4,000 demonstrators took over a sports stadium during an international competition.

The policeman, Señor Constantino Gómez Barcia, was killed when two men opened fire with shotguns on a car in which he and three other officers were members of the civil guard and the fiancée of one of them, were returning from a dance to their barracks at Mondragon about 3 am.

The attackers, who appeared to have been waiting for the policeman, stepped out from another vehicle and blasted away at the police, who had stopped at a traffic sign. Apart from Señor Gómez, two policemen were injured, one seriously.

When the gunman's car was found later, its owner was discovered to be locked inside the boot. He told police he was forced into the boot about six hours before the shooting.

The killers are believed to be members of the ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty), taking revenge for the shooting of two ETA men by the civil guard at a roadblock near San Sebastian last Tuesday.

Shortly before noon today, about 4,000 spectators at the eighth indoor European athletics championship meeting took over the Anoeta arena in San Sebastian in support of a demand for a total amnesty.

Athletes from 25 countries

taking part watched as the crowd surged on to the track, chanting slogans in Basque. These were translated into all the major European languages and broadcast over the loudspeakers.

The police, who were outnumbered, agreed to withdraw and not make any arrests. Then the crowd poured out of the arena, leaving the athletes to continue with virtually no audience. The demonstrators marched through the streets of San Sebastian, where they were joined by thousands of others.

The demonstration, like several others in the Basque country over the weekend, made clear that the expansion of the royal amnesty announced by the Government last week-end, in conjunction with a broad but restricted pardon, was not enough for the Basques, who have consistently called for total and immediate freedom for political prisoners.

In Madrid, about 200 people, including relatives of some Basque prisoners, staged a hunger strike at a church in the working class suburb of Moratalaz in favour of an amnesty. Police broke up another demonstration by several hundred people in front of the women's prison here this morning.

In another significant political development Señor José María Gil Robles, a former minister of the Spanish Republic, Government, resigned yesterday as president of the Popular Democratic Federation in order to facilitate a pact of Christian Democratic parties.

British winners, page 11

Portugal wins backing for 1981 EEC membership

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, March 13

Portugal will receive the full support of the European Commission in seeking membership of the EEC at the earliest possible date. This emerged from the weekend discussions in Brussels between Mr Roy Jenkins, the president of the Commission, and Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister.

Dr Soares's visit to Brussels was the last stop on a two-stage tour of European capitals which is to be followed at the end of March by the lodging of a formal application for EEC membership. As a member of EFTA, the European Free Trade Association, Portugal is already linked to the Community by a free trade agreement.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Dr Soares said that he expected the Commission to hand down its constitutionally required opinion on the Portuguese application by January of next year at the latest. This could be followed a few months later by the opening of entry negotiations with the EEC's Council of Ministers.

The negotiations might take two to three years, Dr Soares reckoned, enabling Portugal to join the Community around 1980-81. A five-year transitional period would then be necessary for industry and trade, and a little longer for agricultural goods, so that Portugal could expect to be fully integrated by about 1987.

Commission officials indicated that they had no serious quarrel with this timetable, while acknowledging that in the final analysis it would be the attitude of the nine existing EEC members acting through the Council of Ministers, which would determine how quickly Portugal joined the Community.

The warmth of Dr Soares's reception in Brussels was evidently intended to dispel suggestions that Mr Jenkins and his colleagues were unenthusiastic about the prospect of Portuguese membership, an impression which gained currency after Mr Jenkins's recent visit to Rome.

The French have recently suggested that the entry negotiations already opened with Greece and the applications expected in a few weeks from Portugal and, possibly later in the year, from Spain should be treated together, with uniform criteria being applied.

The idea behind this suggestion seems to be to give the EEC more time to examine the economic implications of further enlargement of the Community and also to look at the probable consequences for the working of existing EEC institutions.

While claiming to be unaware of this French view, Dr Soares made it clear that he would be against any "globalisation" of entry negotiations. Each applicant country, he argued, had a right to see its case treated separately because each had its own special economic conditions and was moving towards democracy at its own pace.

He did not underestimate the economic obstacles in the way of Portugal's integration, and he accepted that a vast recovery programme would have to be carried out with the cooperation of the Community and in parallel with negotiations. José Saracit wrote from Lisbon: In the absence of Dr Soares, Portugal has been swept by yet another wave of industrial unrest and political agitation while the cost of living continues to rise.

Strikes have affected the textile industry, the steel mills, travel agencies, and glass factories and a number of small firms.

Family's expulsion stopped by Queen Juliana

From Our Correspondent
The Hague, March 13

Queen Juliana of the Netherlands has intervened to prevent the expulsion of a family of illegal immigrants. An Indonesian mother and her three children, who were due to be expelled on Friday, have been allowed to remain in the Netherlands while their case is further considered.

Mrs Thung-Go Seng Guar came with her children to Holland four and a half years ago, after she had been deserted by her husband. She has been living with relatives who opted for Dutch nationality when Indonesia became independent. Her children, now aged seven, 11

and 14, have been attending Dutch schools.

Their expulsion was ordered after a final appeal for a resident's permit was rejected by the Council of State.

Schoolmates of the Thung children and a Protestant minister who has been trying to help the family to settle in Holland, petitioned Queen Juliana.

The Queen, who is at present on holiday in Austria, has declined to sign the expulsion order and has asked for further information on the Thung family.

The Ministry of Justice says that proceedings have been suspended until "the opinion of the Crown has been established".

Swiss vote against sending foreign workers home

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, March 12

Voting on the issue for the third time in seven years, the Swiss today decisively rejected a proposal for a big reduction in the number of foreign workers allowed in the country. With a 45 per cent turnout in the referendum, the vote against the proposal, put forward by the right-wing Republican Movement, was more than two to one.

The Republicans, headed by Mr James Schwarzenbach, had campaigned for a constitutional amendment under which the number of foreigners would be reduced to one-eighth of the total of Swiss nationals over the next decade. At present there are about 950,000 foreigners working in the country.

Switzerland has a population of 5,200,000 and the population

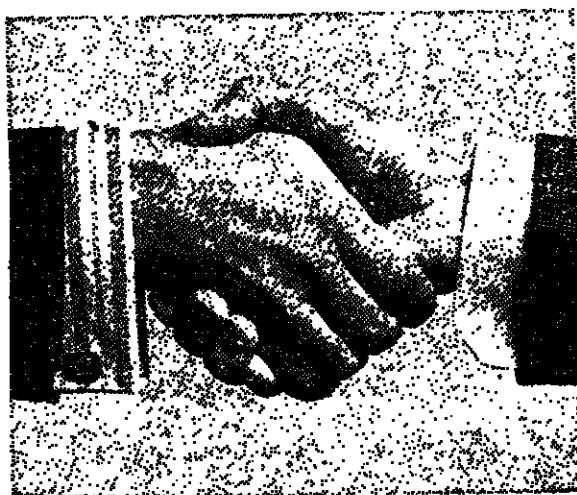
growth is almost static. At least 250,000 foreigners would have to leave the country if the proposal had gone through.

Voters simultaneously rejected a proposal by National Action, another small right-wing party, to limit naturalisations to 4,000 annually, under the present rate.

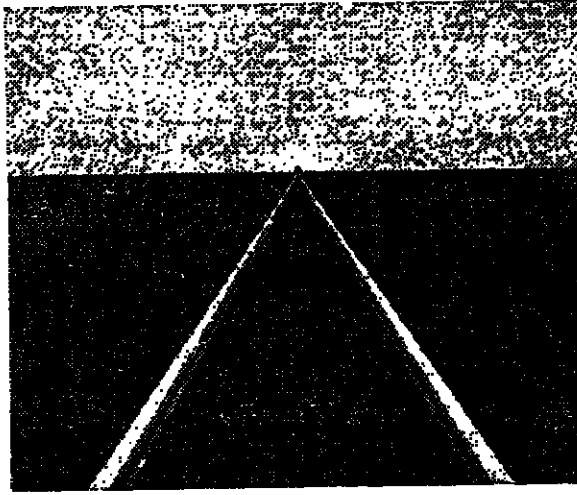
A second proposal by the same group for holding a referendum—with retrospective effect—on adherence to any international treaty, met the same fate. But voters accepted a Government counter-proposal for voting on any future commitment affecting traditional Swiss neutrality.

The xenophobia manifest in the right-wing proposals appears to emphasize the point made by Swiss political commentators that foreign workers still serve as scapegoats for those concerned about the social and economic situation.

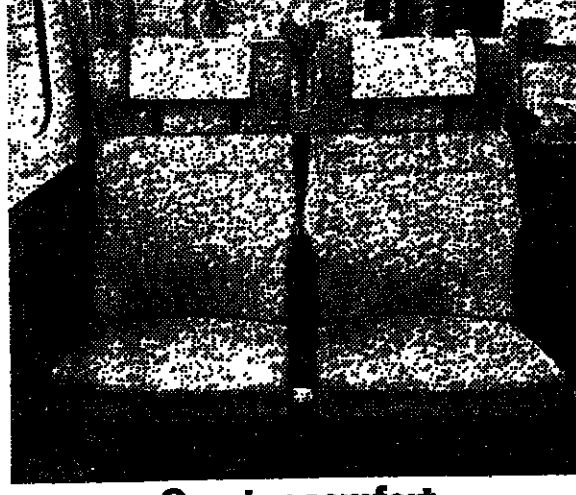
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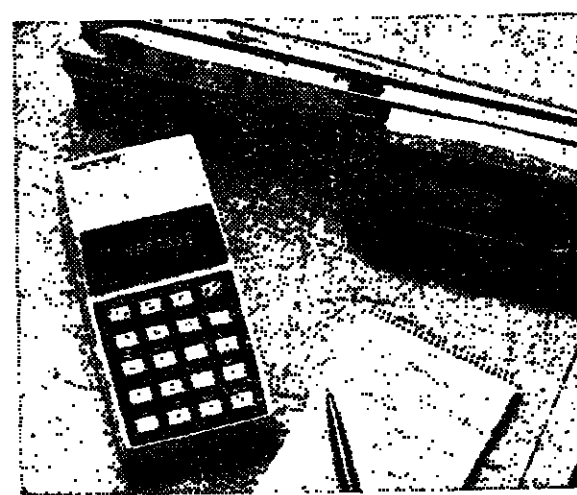
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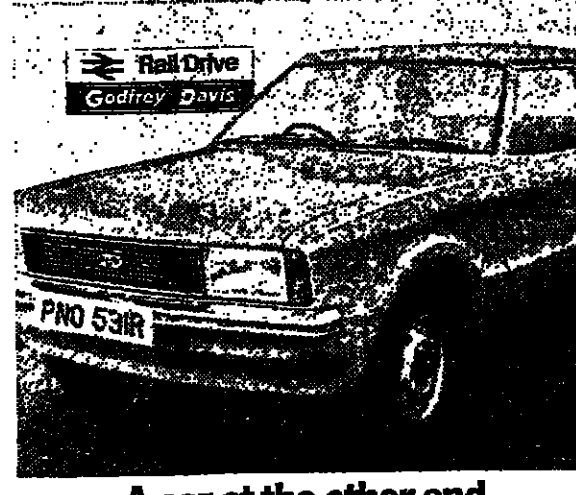
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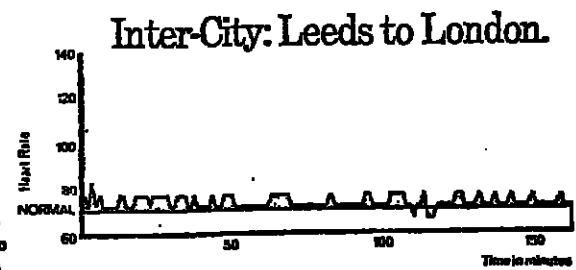
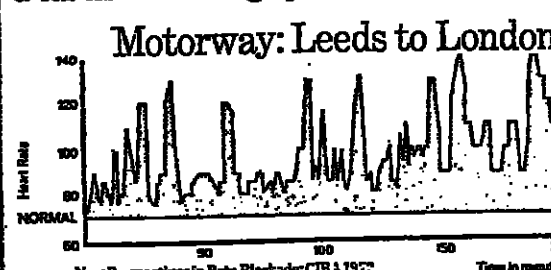


A car at the other end (at over 60 stations).



More relaxation.

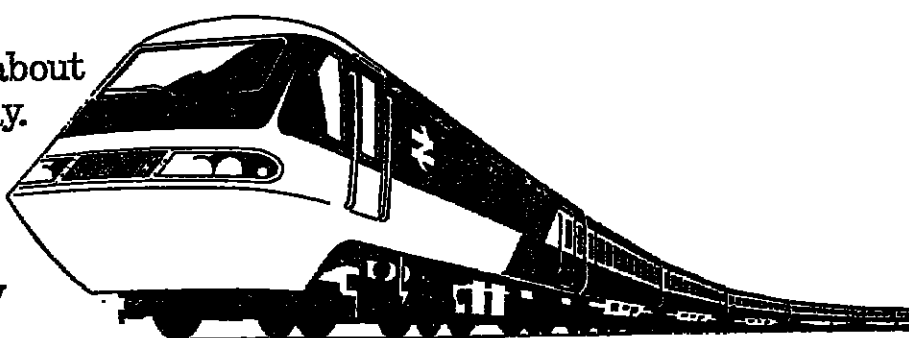
A medical research team from Leeds University has monitored the heartbeats of 24 businessmen—measuring the stresses and strains imposed by travel, comparing driving a car and travelling by train.



Motorway incidents (rain, fog, overtaking) set hearts racing. Heartbeat peaked from 110 to 140 beats per minute. Overall average: 93 beats.

During this fast two hundred mile journey, heartbeat rates stayed low, around 70 beats per minute, rising to a maximum of 80. Average: 72 beats.

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مكتبة الأصيل

OVERSEAS

319 million electors will decide who is to govern India

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, March 13

When polling begins on Wednesday in India's general election, it will, according to Delhi officials, be the biggest democratic electoral exercise the world has seen. A total of 319 million voters, aged 21 or over, will be entitled to choose between a ruling party, an opposition, regional groupings, and a host of independent candidates.

It is such a huge exercise that voting will be spread over four days, though no area will poll on more than one day. Mr P. I. Jacob, the deputy chief election commissioner, has been supervising the detailed preparations from the capital, while the chief commissioner is making a final inspection of the arrangements in the 22 states of the union.

Mr Jacob predicted at least 60 per cent of the electorate would vote compared with only 55 per cent at India's last general election in 1971. But he declined to speculate on how the results would be, though observers here believe a low poll would favour the ruling Congress Party.

Forty-four million people will be eligible to vote for the first time. There will be about 1,200,000 ballot boxes at 373,400 polling stations and two million officials, not counting the police, will be on duty. Helicopters will take ballot papers to remote parts, ponies will also be used, and in two states, Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, the poll can only be held in certain circumstances in late May or early June after the snows have melted.

Each station will be equipped with indelible ink (to mark the voter's finger), seal wax, and lanterns (if the electric light should fail). Mr Jacob said the electoral rolls, which took 300,000 officials nine months to prepare,

were ready last August. "We had been preparing for a general election for the past two years," he added.

Mr Jacob showed me one of the numbered microprinted papers with a secret seal that will be locked into each ballot box after it has been signed by the agents of each candidate. If the ballot box is then tampered with, the secret seal would be broken.

The election commission maintains that the seals make it impossible to interfere with the boxes. But opposition candidates have said this is not the only way to influence the election unfairly. They have expressed fears about intimidation of voters in some states and point out that presiding officers are often minor government employees.

The count will not begin until March 20. In the meantime the ballot boxes will be taken to storage places, usually schools, and agents will be given the serial numbers of used and unused ballot papers. They will be allowed to accompany the boxes and they would be able to post guards outside the storage centres.

Asked about fears of "booth capturing"—in the past gangs have raided polling stations to take and fill in ballot papers—Mr Jacob said: "Whenever we hear of anything like that we will order a fresh poll."

Mr Jacob said the opposition had so far failed to give any detailed evidence to back claims that government printing presses in Uttar Pradesh state had been printing duplicate ballot papers. This week-end the chief election officer in Calcutta admitted 3,500 ballot papers had been found with identical numbers but this, Mr Jacob said, was a "genuine mistake". They would be destroyed.

Civil protest to go ahead as Bhutto offer fails

From Hasan Akhtar
Rawalpindi, March 13

Pakistan National Alliance tonight rejected an offer by Mr Bhutto, the Prime Minister, to hold talks on the political crisis caused by allegations that the Government rigged the general election result. They confirmed their determination to begin a civil disobedience campaign tomorrow.

Mr Bhutto, in a radio and television speech last night, urged the opposition to begin talks. He said that while the National Assembly elections would not be upset, he was prepared to discuss other matters, which it was presumed could include the question of fresh elections to four provincial assemblies.

The opposition boycotted the provincial assembly elections after winning only 36 of 200 seats in the National Assembly elections on Monday. They said the result was rigged.

Tonight, opposition leaders, including Maulana Mufli Mahmud, Air Marshal Asghar Khan and Professor Ghaffar Ahmed, said the Prime Minister's offer to hold talks was unacceptable. They have demanded the resignations of Mr Bhutto and the election commission and have called for fresh general elections to be held under the protection of the Army.

The Prime Minister, in his speech, described these demands as childish and unacceptable.

Police harassment was the final blow for Professor Jan Patocka
Leader of Prague's Charter 77 campaign dies

Prague, March 13.—Professor Jan Patocka, the Czechoslovak philosopher and a leading campaigner for civil and human rights, died today after suffering a cerebral haemorrhage on Friday. He was 69.

He was admitted to hospital in Prague nine days ago, shortly after he had been interrogated for 11 hours. He had just recovered from a bad bout of influenza and, despite doctors' advice to rest, he continued to act as a spokesman for the Charter 77 human and civil rights group.

Although Professor Patocka said he had been treated correctly during the police interrogation, the long session appeared to have been the

final blow to his health, family sources said. He was also said to have been affected by administrative harassment and constant attacks against him in the government press.

Professor Patocka was frequently questioned by police and summoned to government offices, where he was warned that his Charter 77 activities were contrary to Czechoslovak laws.

Earlier this month the Communist Party daily newspaper *Rude Pravo* accused him of defending Nazism in his philosophical works in 1942, and attacked his "reactionary, anti-democratic past".

His final interrogation came after his meeting two days previously with Mr Max van der

Soel, the Dutch Foreign Minister, who was in Prague on an official visit.

In Holland, Mr van der Soel said he was saddened by Professor Patocka's death. He described him as a fighter for human rights.

The police today maintained their pressure on Professor Patocka's fellow campaigners. Mr Václav Havel, the playwright and a Charter 77 spokesman, who was arrested two months ago, has been remanded in custody for at least another month, his wife said.

It is believed that similar detention orders have been issued against Mr Jiri Lederer, a former journalist, and Mr Frantisek Pavlicek and Mr Ota

Ornest, both former theatre directors, who were arrested at the same time as Mr Havel.

No formal charges have been brought against any of these men.

Another spokesman for the group, Dr Jiri Hajek, a former Foreign Minister, is still under virtual house arrest. The police are turning away all foreign visitors to Dr Hajek's small suburban house and Czechoslovakians are allowed in only after being searched.

The former minister, a "keep fit" enthusiast, has come to an arrangement with the police whereby he can continue his daily jogging sessions along an established course under constant surveillance.

Obituary, page 18

Prisoners of conscience



Yugoslavia: Jeno Gordos

By David Wynn

The continuing unrest in Yugoslavia by various groups agitating for independence is reflected in the detention of Mr Jeno Gordos, a chemical laboratory technician, who was arrested in Subotica, Vojvodina province, in January of last year.

Mr Gordos, who was held for "hostile propaganda", was an active member of Yugoslavia's Hungarian minority in Vojvodina, which was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. According to the Hungarian newspaper *Magyar Hirlap*, Mr Gordos was tried last October together with Mr Karoly Vici, a teacher accused of the same offence.

The charge said Mr Gordos had been in contact with émigré organisations in Munich, Paris and Toronto while he was living in Switzerland and that he possessed propaganda material hostile to Yugoslavia and other socialist countries. The sentence passed on Mr Gordos is unknown, but he is held at Subotica where his health is said to be poor.

Chile bans all parties after plot allegation

Santiago, March 13.—Chile's military rulers have banned all political parties and political activities by groups or individuals after announcing discovery of a plot to overthrow the Government.

The new measures, contained in a decree issued yesterday by President Pinochet, followed government allegations that Christian Democrat leaders had planned an alliance with Marxist groups.

The ban on political parties affects non-Marxist political organisations, including the Christian Democrats.—Reuter.

S African journalists may face jail terms

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, March 13

Editors and other journalists in South Africa will face prison sentences if they refuse to appear before the proposed new press council or decline to answer questions.

These are among the provisions of the controversial newspaper Bill which was published yesterday, a day after a White Paper containing its main proposals had been tabled in Parliament. The White Paper had not specified the penalties provided for in the Bill.

Anyone refusing or failing to appear before the council will be liable to six months' imprisonment or a £300 fine, or both, for a first offence. The

fine is raised to £660 for a second offence and to £1,330 and/or one year's imprisonment on a third or subsequent conviction.

Six months' prison sentences and £330 fines can also be imposed for a number of other infringements. These include refusing to answer questions put by the press council, refusing to take an oath or make an affirmation at the request of the council's chairman and insulting or belittling a member of the council.

As the council can demand to know a journalist's source of information, a journalist could be jailed for refusing to name an informant. The Bill has united the

Afrikaans and English language press in an unprecedented show of opposition.

It has also resulted in a confrontation within one of the two main Afrikaans publishing groups, Perskor, between Mr Ben Schoeman, its chairman and a former Cabinet minister, and Dr Connie Mulder, a fellow director who is Minister of the Interior and was responsible for introducing the Bill.

Mr Schoeman said that the Bill would mean the introduction of press censorship. The other Afrikaans publishing group, Nasionale Pers, while rejecting the Bill, is prepared to negotiate with the Government.

Rhodesian troops hunt killers of orphan girl

From Michael Knipe
Salisbury, March 13

Rhodesian troops were hunting today for a gang of African nationalist guerrillas who shot dead an 11-year-old white orphan girl and her grandmother on Friday evening at a farm 50 miles north-east of Salisbury.

The girl's grandfather collapsed and died of a heart attack soon afterwards while giving the military authorities details of the killings and, in Salisbury, the child's great-aunt had a similar heart seizure and died on hearing the news. The tragedy is one of the most shocking to have occurred during Rhodesia's four years of guerrilla conflict.

The girl who died, Sharon McRoberts, lost her parents in a car accident eight years ago. She had been collected from school on Friday afternoon by her grandparents, Mr Henry Hastings, aged 67, and his wife Muriel. The couple's son, Mr David Hastings, who lives at the adjoining farm, said today that the police had told him they believed the killings were committed by the same gang of guerrillas who killed seven Roman Catholic missionaries last month. The military authorities refused to comment.

Sharon and her grandmother were having supper at their

farmstead home near Shamva at 7.30 pm when the guerrillas entered the property. They had apparently gained possession of a key to an unused back gate to the farm's security fence. At the time the grandfather had gone outside to await the return of a tractor.

The intruders shot and killed Sharon as she attempted to run to the safety of her bedroom. Her grandmother was killed in the dining room. Hearing the gunfire, the grandfather drew the pistol he was carrying and ran back to the house. He shot dead one guerrilla and wounded another, putting to flight the remainder of the gang, believed to number about six.

An hour later, as the grandfather was giving the details of the attack to the security forces, he suffered his fatal heart attack. The great-aunt who died in Salisbury was Mrs Norma Sim.

The deaths of Sharon and her grandmother were among 20 guerrilla war fatalities recorded during a 24-hour period. Two of those who died were White Rhodesian soldiers, 13 were African nationalist guerrillas, and five were African women accompanying them. The deaths brought the total for the week to 123 compared with 26 the previous week.

Leadership challenge to be resisted by Mr Whitlam

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, March 13

Mr Gough Whitlam, who offered the Labour Party leadership to Mr Bill Hayden after losing the 1975 election, has announced that he will resist Mr Hayden's leadership challenge made last week.

In 1975 Mr Hayden declined the offer saying he wanted to remain loyal to the Whitlam leadership. He has now changed his mind, presumably because of growing disenchantment with Mr Whitlam in the parliamentary Labour Party.

The party caucus meeting to elect the leader is not due for three months, but already there are indications that it could be held sooner to avoid a building up of tension.

Mr Hayden is in his early forties. He has managed to project himself as a moderate and during the mud-slinging of the recent days of the Labour administration he was one of the few who retained an acceptable public image.

He started his working life as a policeman in a small Queensland town while studying law and economics.

Just before the end of the Whitlam Government Mr Hayden became Treasurer and his budget presented in August, 1975, considerably enhanced his reputation.

Mr Hayden has taken a long time to decide what a number of his colleagues have been telling him since Mr Whitlam's fall: that the party needs him as leader.

Canadian minister defends clubbing of seal pups

From Our Correspondent
Ottawa, March 13

The annual seal hunt is getting under way on the ice floes off Northern Newfoundland amid the usual chorus of protest by animal lovers.

Protest groups in Canada and various other countries have mobilized their members to draw world attention to the hunt in which both Canadian and Norwegian hunters take part.

Foremost among them is the Greenpeace Foundation which is sending activists from Vancouver, 4,500 miles away on Canada's West coast, to join in the anti-hunt action. The foundation met with only token success in a similar protest last year.

In the face of the growing campaign against the seal hunt, the Canadian Government has been mobilizing its resources to defend it.

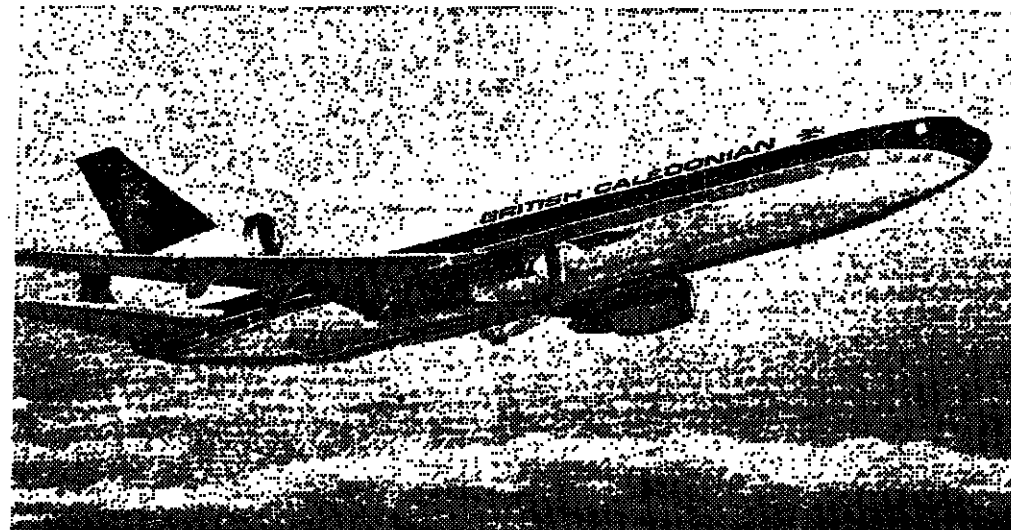
Mr Romeo Leblanc, the Fish-

eries Minister, in a letter to a newspaper has denied that the harp seal is threatened with extinction and that the method of killing with clubs is inhumane.

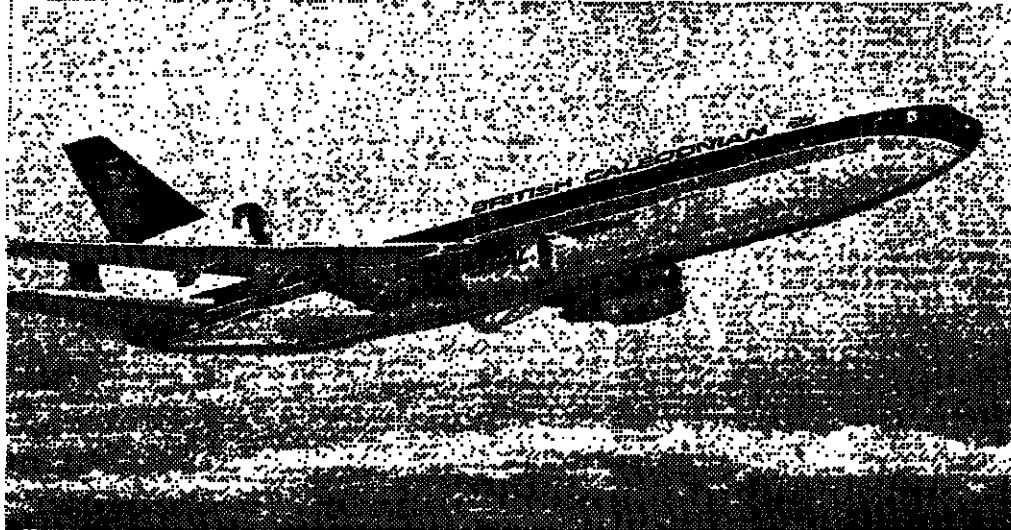
"While humane, the clubbing of small, white-coated animals leaving blood on a white background of ice and snow is unappealing and this is a factor which is readily exploited by groups with a vested interest in anti-sealing activities," he said.

Mr Leblanc, quoting "almost unanimous scientific opinion", claims that the seal herds are increasing. The permitted quota of harp seals this year is 170,000—slightly higher than in recent years. The increase was recommended by scientific advisers associated with the International Commission for the North-West Atlantic Fishery.

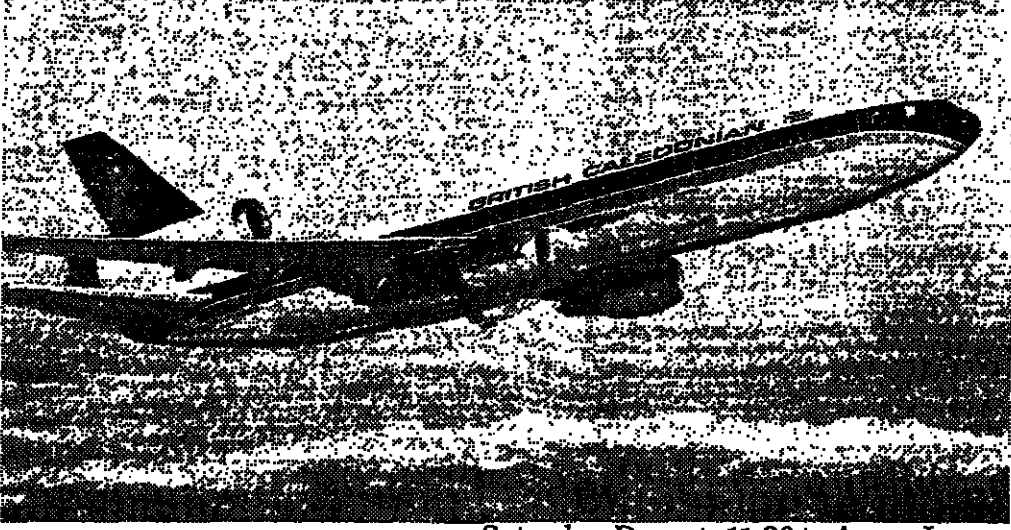
The quota for hooded seals, a less abundant species, is 15,000, as it was in 1976.



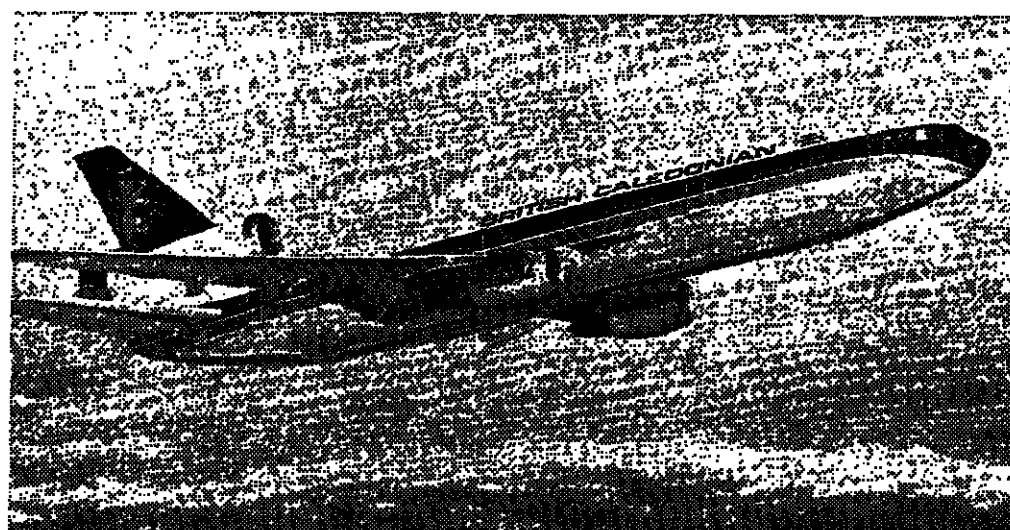
Monday: Departs 12.00 to Lagos, Accra.



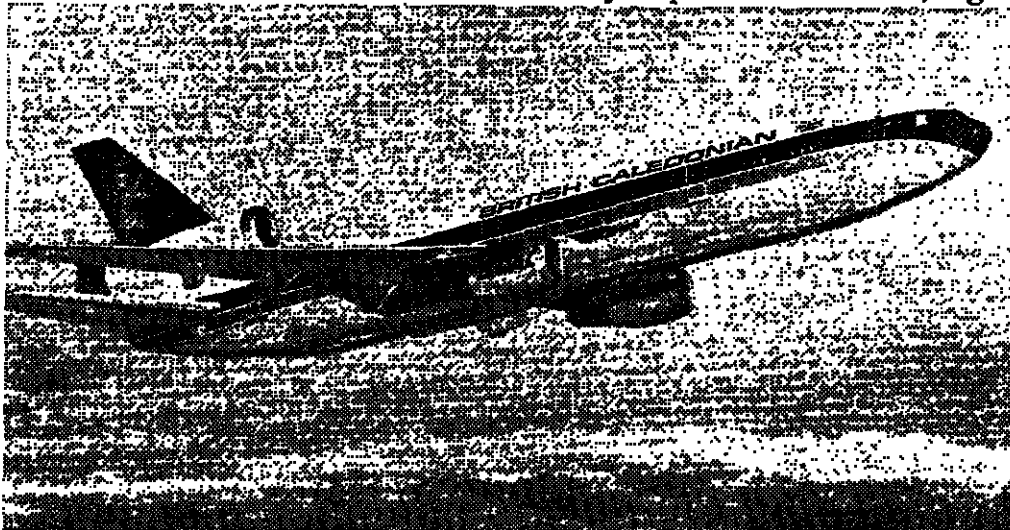
Wednesday: Departs 12.00 to Lagos, Accra.



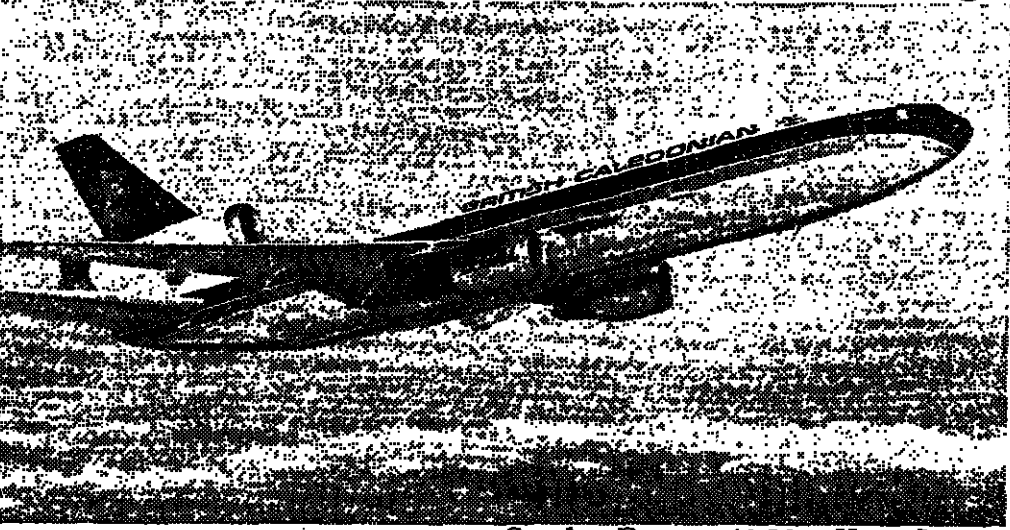
Saturday: Departs 11.30 to Accra, Lagos.



Tuesday: Departs 11.30 to Kano, Lagos.



Friday: Departs 11.30 to Kano, Lagos.



Sunday: Departs 11.30 to Kano, Lagos.

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Passengers can spread themselves on the

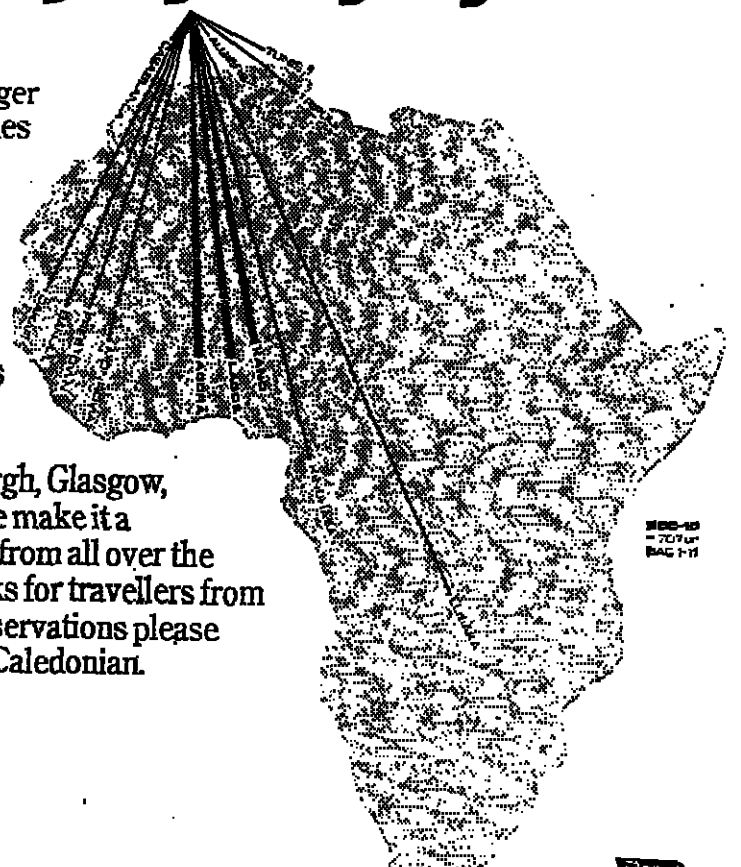
DC-10, and so can we. Bigger galleys, bigger serving areas, more room all round enables us to turn on a service that's something special even by our own high standards.

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*On Thursdays a B.Cal 707 departs 23.15 for Lagos.

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Local Government, Public & Educational Appointments

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The Polytechnic is creating a number of PROFESSORSHIPS for academics of excellence who must maintain criteria. The successful applicant for this post may be eligible to apply.

Salary within the scale £7,395 to £23,271 plus £212 supplement per annum.

Application forms and further particulars from the Director, Teesside Polytechnic, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 3BA, returnable within 14 days.

THE WEST OF SCOTLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

SENIOR LECTURER

DEPARTMENT OF DAIRY TECHNOLOGY

Applications are invited for the above post from persons having an appropriate University Degree in Food Science, Food Technology or Dairy Science. Experience in education and training and development in food and dairy processing, together with commercial and research experience, will be considered an advantage.

The post is a senior one within the Department of Dairy Technology which is involved in the three-fold functions of diploma level education in food technology, research and development in food and dairy processing, and commercial and research programmes related to the dairy industry.

SALARY: GRADE IV - £6,464 PER ANNUM RISING TO £8,075 PLUS SUPPLEMENT OF £313.20 PER ANNUM.

LECTURER

Applications are invited for the above post from persons having an appropriate University Degree in Food Science, Food Technology or Dairy Science. Experience in education and training and development in food and dairy processing, together with commercial and research experience, will be considered an advantage.

GRADE IV - £6,464 PER ANNUM RISING TO £8,075 PLUS SUPPLEMENT OF £313.20 PER ANNUM.

Application forms and conditions of appointment may be obtained from the Secretary, THE WEST OF SCOTLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Royal Postgraduate Medical School

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

ASSISTANT SECRETARY (PERSONNEL)

Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) to the Royal Postgraduate Medical School. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the full range of personnel services in the school, which employs approximately 600 staff.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification in personnel management and have at least five years' experience in the post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) or equivalent. The salary will be £6,464 per annum rising to £8,075 plus £313.20 supplement per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, 12th Avenue, London W12 0NS, (telephone 01-739 8338).

The University of Leeds

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Applications are invited for a post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) to the School of Dentistry. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the full range of personnel services in the school, which employs approximately 600 staff.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification in personnel management and have at least five years' experience in the post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) or equivalent. The salary will be £6,464 per annum rising to £8,075 plus £313.20 supplement per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary, School of Dentistry, The University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, (telephone 0113 275 2222).

University of Oxford

UNIVERSITY

LECTURERSHIP IN SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

The University proposes to appoint an Assistant Lecturer in Social Anthropology. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the full range of personnel services in the school, which employs approximately 600 staff.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification in personnel management and have at least five years' experience in the post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) or equivalent. The salary will be £6,464 per annum rising to £8,075 plus £313.20 supplement per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary, University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 2JD, (telephone 01865 275 2222).

The University of Leeds

SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY

LECTURER

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in Geography. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the full range of personnel services in the school, which employs approximately 600 staff.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification in personnel management and have at least five years' experience in the post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) or equivalent. The salary will be £6,464 per annum rising to £8,075 plus £313.20 supplement per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary, School of Geography, The University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, (telephone 0113 275 2222).

University of Manchester

LECTURERS AND TEMPORARY LECTURERS IN ACCOUNTING

Applications are invited for the posts of Lecturers and Temporary Lecturers in Accounting. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the full range of personnel services in the school, which employs approximately 600 staff.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification in personnel management and have at least five years' experience in the post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) or equivalent. The salary will be £6,464 per annum rising to £8,075 plus £313.20 supplement per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, (telephone 0161 275 2222).

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE

STONEHOUSE, GLOS.

Vacancy in April 1977 for one person to teach Music and English. Applications (with 3 references) should be sent to the Headmaster, or enquiries to 0434 2432.

KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA AND WESTMINSTER AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY (T)

North West District

Deputy

Sector Administrator

Senior Administrative Grade: £4,200-£5,010 fully inclusive

The post is based at St. Charles' Hospital, Exmoor Street, London, W.10.

The successful applicant will have responsibilities for a range of functions at the hospital and some involvement in the administration of associated Community Health Clinics.

This post provides excellent experience in Sector and Unit Administration.

Application form and job description available from the District Personnel Officer, St. Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London, W.2. (Tel. No. 01-262 1280 ext. 3).

Closing date for receipt of applications 25th March, 1977.

BROOKSIDE SCHOOLS

ASSISTANT TEACHER

Resident or non-resident, but expected to do residential duties on ABC rota. Initially at our senior girls' school, Clangunford.

ASSISTANT MATRON

Resident at our Junior (Mixed) School at Clangunford Manor. Duties on ABC rota.

Please write or telephone Jack Mount, Brookside Schools, Clangunford Manor, Craven Arms, Salop. 0584 (Ludlow) 73648.

University of Bristol

DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in Bacteriology. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the full range of personnel services in the school, which employs approximately 600 staff.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification in personnel management and have at least five years' experience in the post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) or equivalent. The salary will be £6,464 per annum rising to £8,075 plus £313.20 supplement per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary, University of Bristol, Bristol BS1 3YD, (telephone 01274 275 2222).

Harrow College of Technology and Art

FACULTY OF SOCIAL

LECTURER GRADE I IN LAW

To teach Law up to Final Professional Examination. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the full range of personnel services in the school, which employs approximately 600 staff.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification in personnel management and have at least five years' experience in the post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) or equivalent. The salary will be £6,464 per annum rising to £8,075 plus £313.20 supplement per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary, Harrow College of Technology and Art, Harrow, Middx. Tel. 01-864 4411.

The University of Leeds

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

LECTURERS IN BIOCHEMISTRY

Applications are invited for two posts of Lecturer. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the full range of personnel services in the school, which employs approximately 600 staff.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification in personnel management and have at least five years' experience in the post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) or equivalent. The salary will be £6,464 per annum rising to £8,075 plus £313.20 supplement per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, (telephone 0113 275 2222).

University of Kent at Canterbury

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN THE ELECTRONICS LABORATORY

Applications are invited for the post of Research Associate in the Electronics Laboratory. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the full range of personnel services in the school, which employs approximately 600 staff.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification in personnel management and have at least five years' experience in the post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) or equivalent. The salary will be £6,464 per annum rising to £8,075 plus £313.20 supplement per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary, University of Kent at Canterbury, Canterbury CT2 7AL, (telephone 01227 275 2222).

University of Reading

TEMPORARY LECTURERSHIP IN ENGLISH

Applications are invited for a temporary Lectureship in English. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the full range of personnel services in the school, which employs approximately 600 staff.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification in personnel management and have at least five years' experience in the post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) or equivalent. The salary will be £6,464 per annum rising to £8,075 plus £313.20 supplement per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary, University of Reading, Reading RG1 2AA, (telephone 01235 275 2222).

University of Warwick

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Applications are invited for the post of Administrative Assistant. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the full range of personnel services in the school, which employs approximately 600 staff.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification in personnel management and have at least five years' experience in the post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) or equivalent. The salary will be £6,464 per annum rising to £8,075 plus £313.20 supplement per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary, University of Warwick, Warwick CV4 7AL, (telephone 01927 275 2222).

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD

Weir Fellowship in Politics

The college proposes to elect a Weir Fellow in Politics. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the full range of personnel services in the school, which employs approximately 600 staff.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification in personnel management and have at least five years' experience in the post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) or equivalent. The salary will be £6,464 per annum rising to £8,075 plus £313.20 supplement per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary, University College Oxford, Oxford OX1 2JD, (telephone 01865 275 2222).

University of Auckland

NEW ZEALAND

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in New Zealand. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the full range of personnel services in the school, which employs approximately 600 staff.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification in personnel management and have at least five years' experience in the post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) or equivalent. The salary will be £6,464 per annum rising to £8,075 plus £313.20 supplement per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand, (telephone 011 275 2222).

University of St. Andrews

DIRECTOR OF ARTS CENTRE

Applications are invited for the post of Director of Arts Centre. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the full range of personnel services in the school, which employs approximately 600 staff.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification in personnel management and have at least five years' experience in the post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) or equivalent. The salary will be £6,464 per annum rising to £8,075 plus £313.20 supplement per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary, University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews, Scotland, (telephone 01334 275 2222).

University of Aston in Birmingham

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HYGIENE

LECTURER IN LEGAL STUDIES

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in Legal Studies. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the full range of personnel services in the school, which employs approximately 600 staff.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification in personnel management and have at least five years' experience in the post of Assistant Secretary (Personnel) or equivalent. The salary will be £6,464 per annum rising to £8,075 plus £313.20 supplement per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary, University of Aston in Birmingham, Birmingham B4 7ET, (telephone 0121 275 2222).

University of Cambridge

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH STUDIES

PROFESSOR OF FRENCH AND HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT

Applications are invited

OVERSEAS

Uganda orders a close watch kept on Britons and Americans

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, March 13

The Ugandan Government ordered district commissioners, chiefs and other administrators today to watch British and American residents closely. It also threatened to force foreigners to disclose the source of "false information" which it accused them of sending out of the country.

Uganda Radio said pressure would be brought against them if these "false statements" continued to be broadcast by the BBC. This was a reference to a BBC report that a Ugandan civil aircraft pilot had fled to Britain because he feared for his life in Uganda.

Britons have not lately been threatened in Uganda, but the 100 Americans there were recently ordered to appear before President Amin. This meeting was later cancelled.

Mr Charles Balidawa, the pilot who is reported to be seeking political asylum in Britain, was formerly director of civil aviation for Africa. He returned to Uganda last year from Nairobi to fly for the state-owned Uganda Airlines.

He was commended for his ability when he force-landed President Amin's plane in southern Sudan with 16 Britons on board last January. Later President Amin ordered an inquiry into the incident and Mr Balidawa gave evidence.

Mrs Mary Nsubuga, wife of the Anglican Bishop of Nami-

rembe, the Rt Rev Dunstan Nsubuga, was said to have died in a car crash on Friday night. The circumstances are not known but President Amin has sent a message of condolence to the bishop.

Request for asylum: Mr Balidawa is expected to apply for political asylum in Britain this week (a Staff Reporter writes). Mr Balidawa, aged 28, arrived at Stansted airport on February 14 to attend a two-month course for a senior pilot's licence. Later he went to his home in Sussex of former Wing Commander James Cobb, who was training a party of Ugandan girl pilots for President Amin. Mr Cobb said yesterday: "He is no longer with me. I met him as a pilot when I was in Uganda, and he told me of his fears for his safety. So I took him to my home and he stayed here for several days. While he was here, he received a telephone call, supposedly from his wife in Nairobi."

Mr Balidawa's wife and child are reported to have escaped from Uganda, and coded telephone calls are said to have been used to tell the pilot that his family was safe.

The Home Office said yesterday that Mr Balidawa had been admitted for two months from February 14, and that it had no knowledge of any application from him to stay any longer.



Mrs Margaret Trudeau smiles as she boards her husband's car at Ottawa airport on her return from New York.

Mr Callaghan on 'Amin obsession'

From John Best
Ottawa, March 13

Mr Callaghan said last night that the British people were highly indignant about events in Uganda but it would be a mistake to turn President Idi Amin into the "centre piece" of the forthcoming Commonwealth conference.

Mr Callaghan is in Ottawa for talks with Mr Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister. He told a press conference that Britain could not decide on its own that President Amin should not attend the meeting of heads of government in June. "We are only the hosts," he said.

On the question whether Uganda should be expelled from the Commonwealth, he said that the subjects to be discussed at the London meeting would be determined by the

Commonwealth Secretariat. The secretariat was sounding out member countries on how the Uganda question should be handled.

When reporters persisted in pressing him with questions about President Amin, Mr Callaghan told them: "All you are doing is showing him to be the most important person in the world and that is just what he wants."

At another point he said: "You seem to have an obsession in Canada about this man."

At the outset of the press conference Mr Callaghan said that public opinion in Britain was highly indignant over what had taken place in Uganda "and condemns it completely. That attitude I reflect."

It would be a great mistake to make President Amin the centre piece of the Commonwealth conference. Mr Callaghan did not want to see

the meeting turned into a circus.

In a television interview today Mr Don Jamieson, the Canadian Minister of External Affairs, said that President Amin's presence at the conference "might very well be so disruptive as to cause the whole exercise to collapse".

He added: "As to what we can do about preventing him from attending, that is not as easy to answer because he has his status as a member of the Commonwealth and he is entitled to attend." In any case President Amin "may not want to leave home for that length of time."

Mrs Margaret Trudeau helped her husband to entertain Mr Callaghan at a dinner last night. She flew into Ottawa earlier yesterday from New York.

Mr Callaghan and his wife returned to London today by Concorde.

Moderate phase opens for Palestinians

From Robert Fisk
Cairo, March 13

The Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament in exile, has begun to assume the moderate face expected of it by the Arab nations, in spite of a public refusal to give up the demand for the destruction of Israel.

Behind the ostentatiously tough stand adopted this week-end by official Palestinian spokesmen, it looks as though the Syrian-Egyptian hopes for a Palestinian presence at a Geneva peace conference, a formal association between the Palestinians and Jordan, and an acceptance of a rump Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank will be fulfilled.

The Council's membership has been increased from 183 to about 290—the Palestinians cannot themselves decide on the exact figure. The extra hundred or so members, most of them pro-Syrian Palestinians, showed their strength in this morning's elections for the Council chairman.

Mr Khaled Fahoum, who generally accepts the moderate pan-Arab stand on a future Palestinian state, was re-elected to the chairmanship with 172 votes; Mr Bahjat Abu Gharabia, the candidate of the four "rejectionist" Palestinian groups, picked up only 67.

Mr Wahmond Labbadi, an official spokesman for Mr Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization, said earlier that there would be no change in the National Council's charter, which demands the creation of a secular state in Palestine and the dismantling of the Israeli nation.

Mr Fahoum, while repeating that the charter would not be altered, took a less dogmatic

line in his address to the Council. Using a new vocabulary, he did not refer to the creation of a secular state. Instead he said that the Palestinians would "not throw down arms until sovereignty is established on a free homeland". A free homeland does not mean all of Palestine.

Furthermore, Mr Nayef Hawatmeh, of the Democratic Popular Front, a semi-Communist FLO group favouring moderate views, let it be known this evening that he would be asking for a vote to change the 10-point charter issued by the Council in 1974, which brands King Hussein of Jordan as a "traitor". Such an amendment would be a necessary step before any formal alliance with the Jordanians.

Mr Hawatmeh's group also want the Council to affirm the Palestinians' right to an "independent state" on the West Bank and in Gaza.

The extremists, Palestinian delegates appear to have already realized that any plans to upset the general tenor of moderation are likely to be defeated.

In his speech to the Council last night, President Sadat of Egypt criticized President Carter's suggestion that Israeli defence lines might temporarily stretch beyond its legal frontiers after a Middle East settlement.

"The October (1973) war", he said, "proved that any talk about secure borders is no longer logical and to repeat these collapsing theories is null and void. I repeat before you all that we will not cede one inch of our land."

Censorship reimposed

Beirut, March 13.—Lebanon has reimposed newspaper censorship only 24 hours after relaxing some controls, press sources said today.

The sources said the censor's office cancelled an announcement which would have allowed Lebanese newspapers, radio and television to report fight-

ing between Palestinians and Lebanese rightists.

Newspapers would, however, have been expected to exercise self-censorship and the censor's office said only a Government decree could lift all restrictions.

Foreign correspondents have been free of censorship since the end of January.—Reuter.

Mr Rabin defends his visit to Washington

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, March 13

Mr Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, returned from Washington tonight and defended his controversial meetings with President Carter as "positive on the whole". He acknowledged, however, that "not everything was to our liking".

He will report to the Cabinet tomorrow and the Likud opposition has asked for an urgent parliamentary debate.

Likud leaders have alleged that Mr Rabin solicited his Washington invitation as an election gimmick. They say it has harmed Israel's cause because it led to Mr Carter's suggestion at a press conference that Israel's peace borders should be similar to the pre-1967 lines "with minor adjustments".

Mr Carter said the borders would be a matter for decision between the parties concerned, but his statement was held here to undermine Israel's bargaining position in peace talks.

Mr Rabin, questioned at an airport press conference today, said that Mr Carter had not accepted the Arabs' demand for a total withdrawal by the Israelis. "He qualified what he thinks, and he added a new element—the distinction between political boundaries and defensible boundaries", he said.

The Prime Minister said this idea had originally been mooted by Israel "in certain sectors". Apparently he was alluding to the Israeli idea that its forces should maintain a presence at the southern tip of Sinai to defend shipping in the Red Sea, although the territory could be recognized as Egyptian.

William Frankel writes: On his way home to Israel, Mr Rabin briefly stopped in London. He told Anglo-Jewish leaders over breakfast in an airport hotel that "under no circumstances do I see any possibility of negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization". On the question of a Middle East peace conference, he thought it could not be held before the autumn of 1977.

Prime Minister tells US it highlights Britain's woes

Continued from page 1

many Americans felt socialism and the welfare state had been "perhaps a catastrophe" for Britain, he retorted: "The welfare state has raised in my experience and in my lifetime in politics the standard of life of the British people to a degree that was unknown when I was young."

The Prime Minister admitted that Britain had a "rundown industrial system"—though some British industries were "as good as anything you've got and a damned sight better than most". But he lamented the headlines' accusation of the "negative" and "industrial decline". "Now there is no doubt we're pulling out" of the recent economic decline.

His questioners were not to be fobbed off. One put to him the often cited British Government report that it took twice as many man-hours to make a car in Britain as in Europe. Mr Callaghan said that was true, but that something was radically wrong with industrial socialism? Mr Callaghan chose to fight back. "Let me ask about your industries that are in trouble. You haven't got a socialist here, as you call it, have you? ... Would you care to name some American industries that are in trouble?"

Unabashed, his questioner shot back that the American automobile industry was doing rather well. But Mr Callaghan was asked about the depressed American shoe industry. He complained that American problems were simply not highlighted the way Britain's were.

And he pointedly remarked upon a new protectionist move—opposed by Britain and other shipping countries—to compel 30 per cent of American oil exports to be carried in American ships.

Told by the ABC London correspondent that he found the mood in Britain very cynical, Mr Callaghan was asked if this cynicism was not "in danger of eroding democracy".

The Prime Minister sighed deeply and replied that Britain had gone through a "traumatic experience" after the loss of empire. He declared: "When you say the standard of living is going down, that isn't true. The standard of living has been deliberately reduced by the Government; over the last 18 months in order that we should get ourselves financially straight again. That should be a matter for congratulation, and not for recrimination. But then after that we see a slow upward movement in the standard of life."

Third World Report

United Nations seeks ways to provide water for a growing population

From Andrew Tarnowski
Buenos Aires

The motto for the first world water conference, which opens in Mar del Plata, Argentina, today, is intentionally provocative: "A generation later may be too late."

It has been chosen by the United Nations organizers of the conference because they fear the world may face a serious water shortage by the end of the century unless conservation measures are taken quickly.

What these measures should be will be discussed by experts from nearly 150 countries over the next two weeks.

The organizers are hoping to make governments realize that water is a valuable product which exists in limited quantities. They also want to underline the point that contamination of rivers and other sources of water is an immediate threat to development in many parts of the world.

The statistics amassed by various United Nations agencies for the delegates are indeed startling. They point out that a third of mankind already lacks secure supplies of drinking water, and by the year 2000 the population of the globe could double.

Although 70 per cent of the earth's surface is covered by water, only 1 per cent of this

is sweet water and 99 per cent of the total reserves is underground. Much lies more than 3,000ft deep.

Rivers and lakes, the most readily available sources of water, account for only one hundredth of 1 per cent of the world's water.

Among the problems the delegates will discuss is the careful nursing and fair distribution of these resources.

In the developing countries, 1,200 million people lack adequate access to drinking water, and 1,400 million have no sewage system.

As the world population grows, vast new resources of water will be needed for increased irrigation of farmlands and for the needs of industry, sanitation and human consumption.

At present 80 per cent of the water used in the world goes to irrigation, but the area under cultivation will have to be doubled by the year 2000 if famine is to be avoided, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Irrigation methods, which are sometimes wasteful of water, will have to be improved.

The FAO believes subterranean water can make a partial solution, particularly if wells are refilled artificially during wet periods. It says 100,000 wells have been drilled in Bangladesh in the past four

years, and another 35,000 in Pakistan.

One pre-conference report says that proper use of rivers and lakes would provide water for half the world's land surface.

Desalination of sea water, solar distillation and cloud seeding to cause rain will also be discussed at the conference, but such methods are generally considered too costly or unreliable.

High on the agenda will be discussion of water as a disease carrier, particularly among children in the developing countries, in some of which insalubrious water has been blamed for 90 per cent of infant mortality.

A report by the World Health Organization says: "It is calculated that child mortality would drop by 80 per cent immediately if it were possible to supply really drinkable water to all the inhabitants of the planet."

The conference comes midway through the United Nations second development decade, during which it is hoped to bring water supplies to the entire urban population of the developing world, and to 25 per cent of its rural population, by 1990.

Among the topics to be discussed is government cooperation in meeting the cost: the rural aspect of the project alone is expected to cost \$6,500m (£3,950m).

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His fame as a director in Europe eventually brought him to Hollywood where he made the highly successful thriller *Rosemary's Baby* about a young girl delivering the Devil's baby.—Reuter.



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Jim Milligan is the Export Distribution Manager for Ethicon Ltd., an Edinburgh based company supplying sutures and ligatures to markets all over the world. Their growth has been consistent year by year and they have won three Queen's Awards in the process.

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Hollywood director charged with rape

Los Angeles, March 13.—The film director, Roman Polanski, was free on bail today charged with raping a 13-year-old girl.

Mr Polanski, husband of the actress Sharon Tate, who was hacked to death by followers of Charles Manson eight years ago, will appear in court here next Friday. He could face a prison sentence of up to 50 years if he is found guilty.

According to police, the alleged rape took place on Thursday night after a photographic session at the home of the actor, Jack Nicholson, who played the leading role in Mr Polanski's film *Chinatown*.

Investigation of the incident was Mr Nicholson's friend, Angelica Huston, aged 26, daughter of the actor-director, John Huston. She was arrested on suspicion of possessing a small amount of cocaine, which police said they found in her handbag when they raided Mr Nicholson's home. She too was freed on bail.

Mr Nicholson was not in town at the time and police said he was in no way connected with the events.

Police said that a woman had complained that her daughter, aged 13, had been taken to the Nicholson home on the understanding that she was being photographed for the French

edition of *Vogue* magazine. But the mother said, her daughter had been raped.

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single-handed against the enemy. A typically big-hearted man, the kind which Francis seems to hold in high esteem, he took back the Arsenal defence with him. He then turned back on himself and still found sufficient strength to

SPORT

Athletics

Britain's small band of gold led by Coe and Miss Colebrook

From Cliff Temple
Athletics Correspondent
San Sebastian, March 13

On an afternoon of splendour which British athletes will enjoy reliving many times in future years, our small squad of athletes competing in the European indoor championships here today claimed three gold and two silver medals. The golden haul took just 25 minutes of track action, and left a queue of British winners waiting for the soft chair in the interview room. Katrina Jane Colebrook (women's 800 metres), Sebastian Coe (men's 800 metres) and Mary Stewart (women's 1,500 metres) took it in turn to show the rest of Europe the way home, each in their own style.



Sebastian Coe: racing maturity

Miss Colebrook, over whom perhaps the biggest question mark was hanging, because she qualified for the final only as one of the fastest losers in Saturday's heats, was content to sit in on the field and let them take her through 400 metres in a time of 1:05.66 seconds. She made her move well round the last bend to overtake her rivals in the classic style, winning in 2 minutes 11 seconds and equalling the world indoor record. It has been an astonishing season for Miss Colebrook, a 28-year-old Lincolnshire secretary, whose indoor best is still only 2:27.5. "I felt much better than in the heats," she said, "and when I was still with them and feeling comfortable at the bell, I knew I had the chance to win."

Coe, whose racing maturity has been a highlight of the championships as he won heat, semi-final and final in apparent relaxed comfort, was also only one of the world's best in his event, winning in 1:46.5, a personal improvement of one second. He was delighted to have drawn one of the best of the field, and made the best use of his luck, going hard from the gun to grab the lead at the 200 metres mark. As the rest of the field were knocking each other silly, he pushed behind him, he sped, smooth as silk, towards victory. "I'm going to try to make the best use of my strengths," he told me just before the race, and that is what it came down to: strength.

Miss Stewart made her effort with 400 metres left, after the Bulgarian, Tchavdarova, had obliterated her pace. "It went pretty much as I expected," Miss Stewart said. "I had thought about going ahead earlier, but as she did it all for me, what was the point?"

of fire in his first major meeting since being elected president of the European Athletic Association. Basque separatist demonstrators marched into the arena after the morning's events began and they wanted him to lead them out of the arena to guarantee their safety in the face of the armed police who stood guard in large numbers outside the stadium. In the interests of the meeting, he agreed.

The unexpected disturbance naturally affected performances in the morning events and many athletes found themselves warming up for two hours or more, not knowing when, or even if, they would compete. "That sort of thing wrecks your concentration completely," Geoffrey Capes said, after his silver medal performance in the shot put.

A little-known Icelandic shot putter, 27-year-old Treflan Hallorsen, reached 67ft 2in with his opening effort. It was several feet further than Hallorsen had ever managed before, and, although normally within the range of Capes, it was sufficient to denote him to silver medal. His best gun, 67ft 11in, came in the second round.

Rowing

Cambridge register their best yet

By Jim Railton

It was a curious weekend. London University last their Head did at Reading, but were moral victors of the event. Cambridge damaged their expensive prototype racing shell on the Tideway, but built some reputation for themselves. London University's objectives are near and far—the Head of the River race in three weeks' time and the national and international circuit ahead. Cambridge's aim is well defined—the Boat Race on Saturday (10) and apart from that little else matters.

Over the weekend Cambridge battled with Tideway Scullers for the second time. When they last met a month ago Cambridge took the day, but achieved their success partly by overruling a crew between Hammersmith and Putney Bridges—Cambridge had already more than the edge.

It took just over seven minutes and a half to reach Putney Bridge, but in that time Cambridge came from almost three-quarters of a length down to place their bows level in three minutes. Within the same time-span Cambridge moved ahead to reach Putney at Putney with an advantage of two lengths and a half. What must have been encouraging for Cambridge was the fact that they did not need to sprint to achieve their supremacy—an energy-sapping tactic—overcame the Scullers' crew racing almost stroke for stroke. It was the best Cambridge performance so far and a reassuring note to build on for Saturday's race.

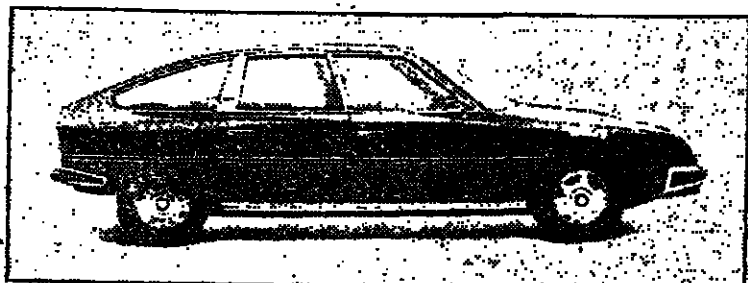
had broken in two as his car ripped through the upper framework of the boat while Cambridge wound down under Putney Bridge. The repair might be awkward on their prototype, but that is secondary to the elation Cambridge must have felt. It must have made their weekend bearable after an indifferent week.

Thames Tradesmen, with five of the Grand Challenge crew at Henley last year, and all members of the national training team, won the Reading Head on Saturday by 2sec over London University. Tradesmen started as a new entry from the fifty-sixth position and rowed in a vacuum leading off that category. London University, too, as head crew, rowed over the course in similar circumstances, and one would have expected that the margin of Tradesmen's victory would have been greater.

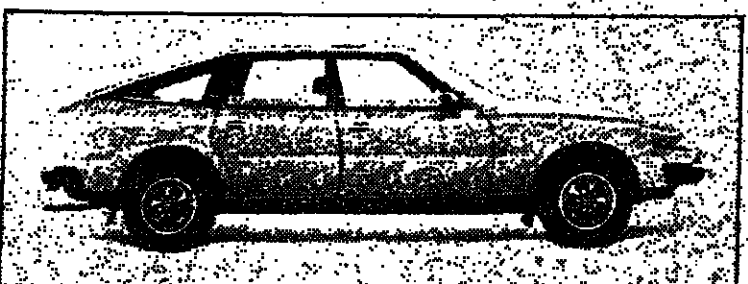
Today's survivors, Oxford 11.15 and Cambridge 10.10 and 6.30. All from Putney.

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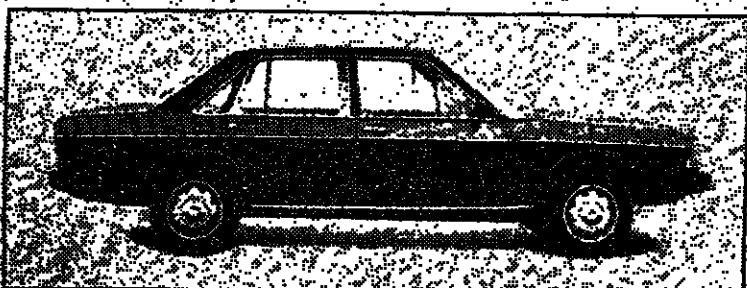
On the surface, we may not look as advanced as we are.



Wind resistance: 0.78 quatratmeters.



Wind resistance: 0.78 quatratmeters.



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FIGURES FOR AUDI AND OTHERS MEASURED BY THE WIND TUNNEL, POWER FLOW FROM AERODYNAMIC CARS

The figures on the left may surprise you. They certainly surprised us.

For we'd always believed that a streamlined shape had less wind resistance than a limousine-like shape.

But with the help of Europe's most advanced wind tunnel our designers found a new way to improve the air flow at the rear of our limousine.

Which means that we were able to lower the car's wind resistance without, as in the case of our distinguished competitors, having to reduce passenger or luggage space.

IT'S A LOT NEWER THAN IT LOOKS

There's a second area in which our car may surprise you. For to judge by appearances, you might think it no more than the typical new car of today: a facelifted version of its predecessor.

In fact, apart from a handful of parts, nothing is carried over from the old Audi 100.

There's a new 2 litre engine, a new safety system, a new noise reduction system, a new ventilation system, a new type of interior.

None of which is a mere novelty. We've simply incorporated all that we, and others, have learnt about car design in the last decade.

UNDER THE BONNET, WE'RE YEARS AHEAD.

To the layman, our engine may not look dramatically different from other people's.

In fact, as it's a completely new 2 litre design, it has advances denied to its rather more elderly competitors.

It doesn't for example, need lots of extra cylinders to make it as smooth and as fast as

other luxury cars. 0 to 60 mph takes just 10.7 seconds. Yet despite that performance, this very large car still gives 29.4 mpg DIN.

You'll also find that its infrequency of servicing will shrink your garage bills.

And that its quietness will sometimes make you wonder whether the engine is switched on.

THE DEEPER YOU GO, THE MORE INTERESTING IT BECOMES.

Some of our car's innovations, like its engine will be readily apparent when you drive it.

But there's one which we hope will remain invisible to you.

And that's the special safety system built into our car. Using the discoveries of Professor Timoshenko of Stamford University, we've developed a unique "telescopic" safety girder.

It absorbs such a high proportion of impact energy in a head-on crash that the risk of serious injury is 50% lower than on new cars that just conform to present day safety standards.

You can inspect all of the other differences between the new Audi 100 and other cars, at your nearest Audi dealer.

And discover the advantages of buying a car that's designed by reason rather than just shaped by fashion.

The new Audi 100.

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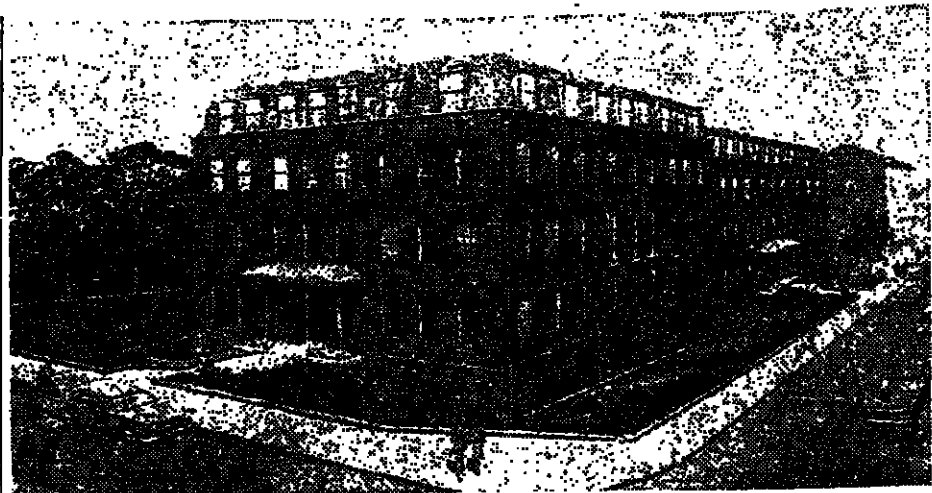
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An artist's impression of the planned Marlborough House building in St Albans.

Pension funds continue to be active in the investment market, both in the office and industrial sectors. One large transaction has been the purchase by the British Petroleum Pension Trust of Erskine House, in Queen Street, Edinburgh, at a figure approaching £5m. The building is in the heart of the financial area close to Charlotte Square and provides a total of about 76,500 sq ft of offices.

It is let to a number of tenants, including the Bank of Scotland, Lloyds and Scottish and Savoy and Prosper, and the acquisition represents a yield of about 61 per cent to BP. The vendors were British Assets, who were represented by P. J. Leggate and Co. Conrad Riblar introduced the property to the pension fund for whom Debenham Tewson and Chinnocks acted.

In a transaction worth more than £1m, Imperial Group Pension Funds have acquired the freehold interest in a factory and two warehouse units at Imber Court, Orchard Lane, East Molesey, Surrey, from the Central and Sherwood Group. The three units contain about 58,500 sq ft of factory, warehouse and ancillary space, let to Imperial Chemical Industries, Solicitors' Law Stationery Society and Sterling Workshop, and producing a total rent of about £88,500 a year, with a substantial reversionary interest.

Richard Ellis and Gooch and Wagstaff acted for the pension fund and the vendors were represented by Leighton Goldhill and Partners. In addition to the transaction the fund is financing the construction of a fourth unit of some 29,000 sq ft of warehouse and office space, due for completion shortly.

In Leeds, Compton House, in Westgate, has also been let and sold. The building, containing 18,245 sq ft of offices, was originally bought by Kenneth Needs (Contractors) as a multi-storey warehouse property which they renovated and converted. The offices were later let to the Leeds City Council, and the building is now being sold to the Leeds City Council, for what will be the sixteenth store in their Presto supermarket chain. Allied were represented by J. Trevor and Sons, of Leeds. The scheme, costing £2.5m, is to a design by Phillips, Cutler,

Pension fund in £5m deal

Kenneth Needs in both the letting and sale of the investment.

New office developments are rare these days, but Grosvenor Estate Commercial Developments have received planning permission and are to go ahead with the first phase of a scheme to be known as Marlborough House, St Albans. The scheme is one of the first of its kind to be given planning permission in the city for some time. The site covers about half an acre close to the High Street, the main shopping thoroughfare, and design is by Stone Toms and Partners.

The first phase will consist of a four-storey building, giving 15,000 sq ft gross, or 10,900 sq ft net, of offices, with parking for 19 cars at subterranean level. The building will be faced with brick, with aluminium sash windows, and the area around will be landscaped. Work is to begin in June for completion about the middle of next year. Letting will be through Jones Lane Wootton.

A second phase of the development is planned to provide a similar amount of space. In Stafford an office and shop development below car park has been taken by Stafford Borough Council, represented by Evans and Evans, of Stafford, so scheme in one building is not due for completion before November 1978. The whole office content of about 65,000 sq ft has been taken by Stafford Borough Council, represented by Evans and Evans, of Stafford, so scheme in one building is not due for completion before November 1978.

A supermarket section of 20,000 sq ft has been let to Allied Suppliers, a subsidiary of Cavenham Foods, for what will be the sixteenth store in their Presto supermarket chain. Allied were represented by J. Trevor and Sons, of Leeds. The scheme, costing £2.5m, is to a design by Phillips, Cutler,

Phillips, Troy, of West Bromwich, and is on the Royal Brine Banks riverside site in Greengate Street.

Billie Parker May and Rowden acted for London and Manchester in the letting of the supermarket and the sale of the whole investment to Norwich Union.

In Banbury, Oxfordshire, Standard Life Assurance Co have begun work on the first phase of their Cherwell Centre, an office and shop development in Bridge Street. It includes a store of about 50,000 sq ft which has been pre-let to Littlewoods, seven shops and some 18,000 sq ft net of offices. Design is by Hildebrand and Glicker and the building contractor has gone to Taylor Woodrow. Project management is by Grosvenor Square Properties.

Planning consent and office development permit have also been obtained for a second phase, consisting of an office precinct providing an additional 152,000 sq ft, with linked multi-storey car park for 530 cars. Letting is through Edwards Bigwood and Bewley and Hillier Parker May and Rowden.

An opportunity to acquire unusual offices is being offered by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, who are to sub-let the north wing of the new town hall in Holland Street. The building, designed by the late Sir Basil Spence, has the upper floors cantilevered, so that each floor is larger than the one below it. The wing being offered provides 10,000 sq ft of air-conditioned, open-plan offices on three floors. Letting is through the value of the borough jointly with Healey and Baker. Rent is about £9 a sq ft.

Even more unusual is a small penthouse office suite on the twentieth floor of the Rotunda building in Birmingham. The offices, amounting to some 2,135 sq ft, were specially built for MEPC, the owners of the building, before their move to their new development, Metropolitan House, in Five Ways, Birmingham.

The suite includes a kitchen and an executive shower room and a feature is a balcony and sun terrace. The suite is to let on a lease of 25 years at an initial rent of £4,750 a year through Bernard Thorpe and Partners.

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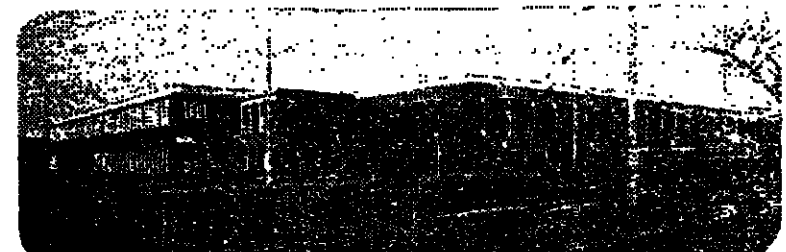
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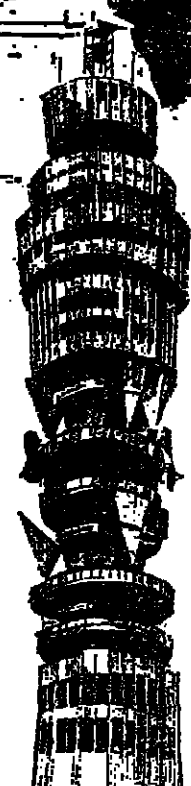
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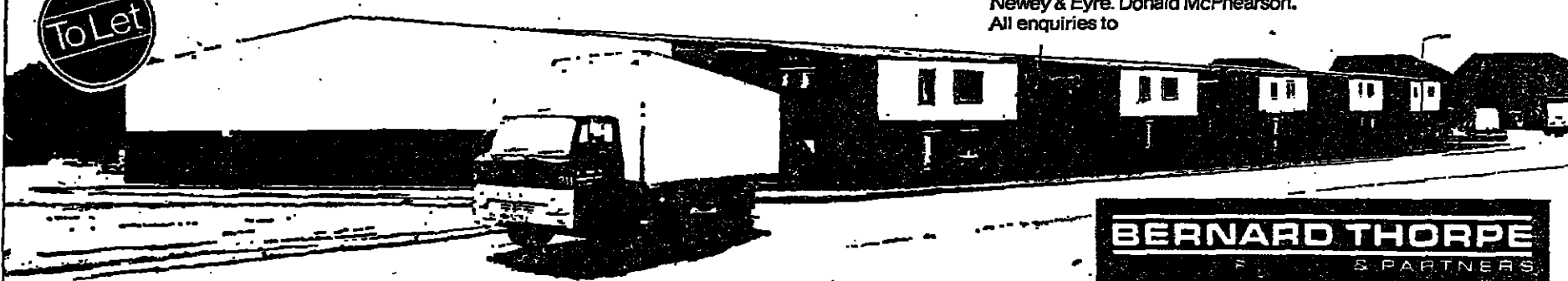
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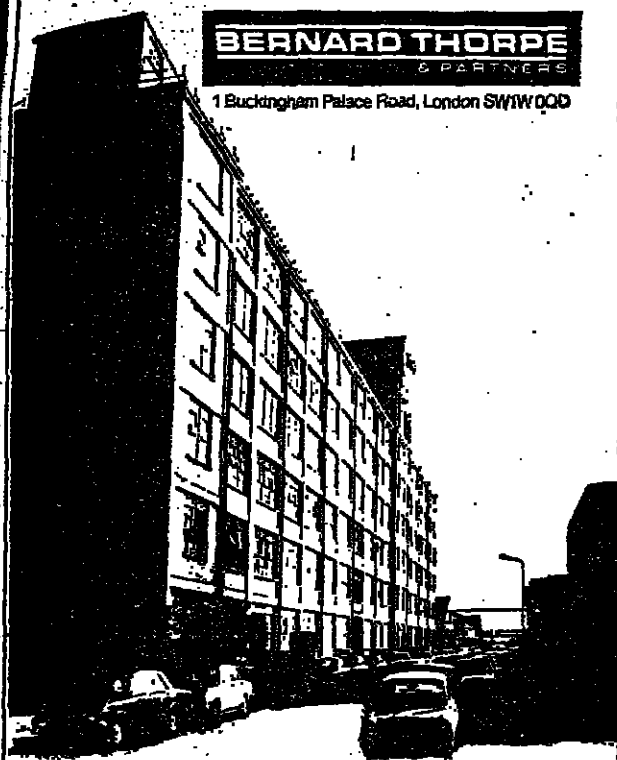
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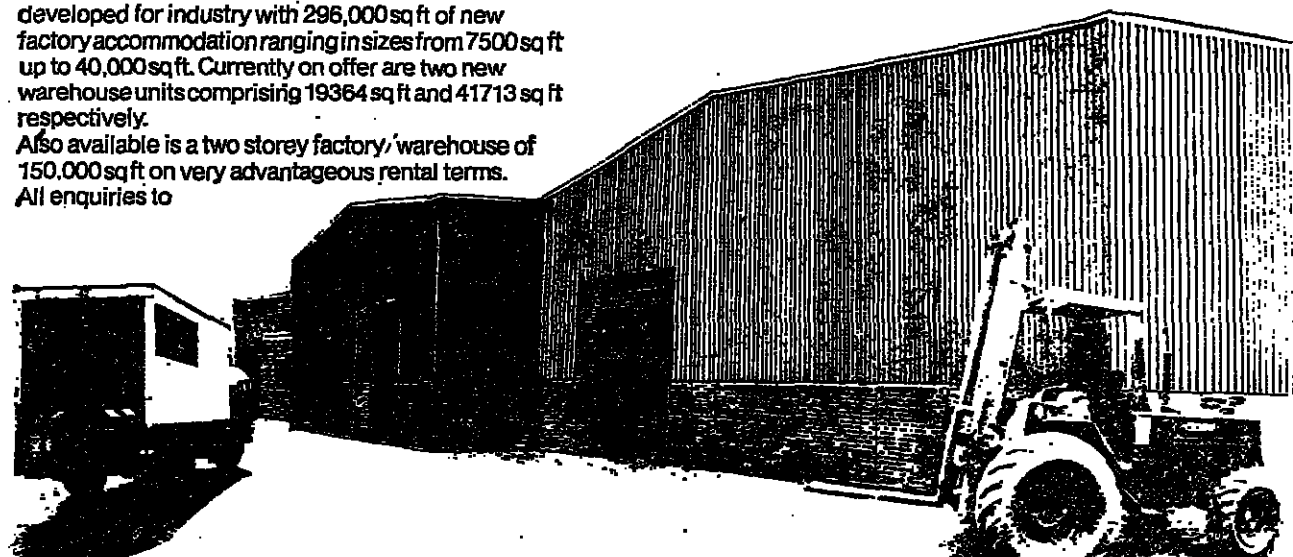
Location The Perivale Industrial Estate is probably situated in one of the finest locations in West London with very good access to Central London, Heathrow airport and the motorways M4, M3, M1 and M40.

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The Development The Mount Farm Employment Area covers some 70 acres. This development is an extension to the existing Estate, and it is being

carried out by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation with finance provided directly by the Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund. The following factory/warehouse units are available.

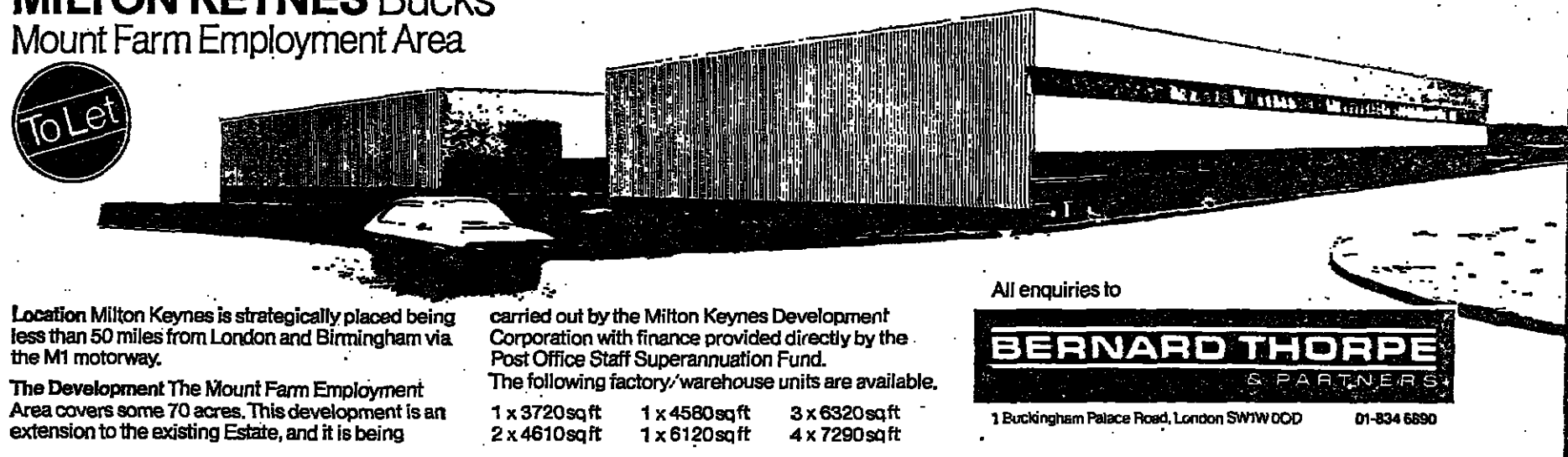
1 x 3720sqft 1 x 4580sqft 3 x 6320sqft
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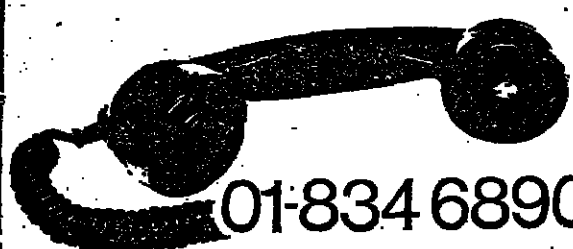
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WINCHESTER Hants Bar End Industrial Estate

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Location The estate adjoins the A33 London/Southampton trunk road (to be upgraded as part of the M3 extension) thereby affording fast access to Southampton, Basingstoke and London.

The Development Three new warehouse units are to be constructed on the estate, which already has existing tenants such as UBM and Hampshire County Council. The units on offer comprise 20180sqft, 16834sqft and 21302sqft. All enquiries to

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David Steel

These timid, damaging proposals can only hurt industrial harmony

If you ask a silly question you can expect a silly answer. The Bullock committee's algebraic solution to industrial democracy was almost an inevitable consequence of their limited terms of reference which were to find a method of getting trade union representation on to boards of directors, not how best to create an atmosphere of industrial harmony in place of strife.

The very phrase "worker director" sums up what is so wrong with much of British industrial relations. It is in concept, patrimonial, old-fashioned and riddled with class prejudice. The opposing forces are now to be marshalled in the boardrooms as well as on the shop floor.

Can't we get across the simple aim of people working in industrial units with varying degrees of responsibility in a common enterprise? It should be possible and of course it is. If the Government proceeds to legislate on the basis of the Bullock report, their Bill is unlikely to proceed very far and the Liberal Party which has so long been committed to industrial partnership, will certainly be driven to oppose it. On the other hand if the Government's new devotion to "seeking the widest

measure of agreement in Parliament" were to be extended to this subject, we could surely agree on policies which ought to be implemented to bring what is called "both sides of industry" (as though it were a battlefield) closer together in the joint effort for more effective productivity. The task should be to end our chronic propensity to stoppage, disruption and go slow.

The first priority should be to create statutory works councils in every place of work of over 50 people. Democratically elected bodies at the grass roots should be empowered to consult and cooperate with management on job evaluation, wage structures and piece rates. They should involve themselves in such questions as working times, holidays and overtime arrangements. They should be consulted on such wider subjects as redundancies, takeovers and mergers, all of which vitally affect the lives of the employees concerned.

The second priority is to give direct encouragement to profit-sharing schemes. If the land of rampant free enterprise—the United States of America—has been able to do it, so should we. Last autumn, I was impressed by the new devotion of schemes in America and in par-

The very phrase 'worker director' sums up what is so wrong with our industrial relations

ricular the example of Sears Roebuck.

Nearly 20 per cent of Sears Roebuck, the largest retailing company in the world, which has headquarters in the tallest building in the world in Chicago, is owned by the employees. This is encouraged by the United States Government, which exempts from tax company profits that are distributed into employee share ownership funds, until the employee receives his share from the fund and is made liable to capital gains tax.

Through the tax system the Government may impose conditions on the fund. United States law requires that to be exempt from tax the fund must benefit more than 70 per cent of the employees. The fund must also not discriminate to-

wards shareholders, officers or highly compensated employees and must be for the exclusive benefit of the members.

Each year the company sets aside 11 per cent of its consolidated income. This is then distributed among employees who are members of the savings and profit sharing fund. For each dollar invested in the fund by an employee, he receives (if he has worked for the company for less than five years) one unit of contribution.

The unit of contribution increases with length of service, so that an employee of 15 years standing receives four units of contribution for each dollar invested. An employee participating in the fund may not cash out until he has worked for the company for five years. This limit was imposed so that higher-salaried

employees should not take too large a proportion of the fund. In 1975, the average value of a fund member's account on retiring was over 35,000 dollars. The employees' average contribution before retiring was 5,811 dollars. Thus nearly 30,000 dollars had been built up by company distribution of profits and the increase in the value of shares held by the fund.

The directors of the company persuaded me of the value of their own scheme in promoting employee identification with the interests of the company. I tickled one of the employees of another company I visited and asked whether he felt any direct benefit from participating in his employer's stock-owning scheme. "Benefit?" he asked. "I've bought my house through it and I've stayed with the same outfit for 24 years—you wouldn't get me to move to anyone else in a hurry."

The importance of this is accentuated by the coming pay policy debate. Under the social contract it has been impossible to create new profit sharing schemes. Now in the next phase it is surely desirable to exempt in any one year. This limit was imposed so that higher-salaried

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Profits and the Union Jack are still flying high in Hongkong

Hongkong The date 1997 is supposed to be engraved on the heart of every businessman here. In that year the 99-year lease of the New Territories will expire, and that will be the end of Hongkong as a British colony. The Union Jack will be hauled down for the last time and the colony will revert to China.

There was indeed some apprehension after the death of chairman Mao when the Chinese leadership was shaken by mysterious internal rumblings, but since the disgrace of the "gang of four" that engraving does not seem to have caused any heartburn among the business community. The colonial administration also looks to the future with a serenity normally associated with Confucian philosophers.

The calm is understandable, at least in the pragmatic atmosphere of this remarkable colony. There is nothing British can do if China wants Hongkong back. The tiny British garrison would not dream of resisting the hordes of the Chinese People's Liberation Army should Peking decide to retrieve by force what is rightly theirs because resistance would be useless.

This simple fact enormously simplifies any appreciation of what the future may hold, but for the Hongkong Chinese and expatriate communities it is not a simple matter of obeying China's enjoining that you cannot avoid rape like back and enjoy it. Or, in western terms, it does not mean drink and merry because you will soon be on a troopship bound for old Blighty's beighted shore.

Hongkongers behave as if the lease was a freehold, and Britain still ruled the waves. For instance, after the completion of the tunnel to Kowloon, an underground train system is now being built, and the housing authority is proceeding with a massive rehousing programme which should house 100,000. The skyline is changing faster than Houston's, as block after block of office buildings and hotels reach upwards towards the Peak.

One reason why Hongkong is so confident is because seen from here 20 years is a long time in this uncertain age. A second reason is that much can happen, and for the mutual benefit of China, the people of Hongkong and Britain, as long as all three remain rational and not emotional. The third reason is that Peking is not impatient to end what it has rightly described as the historically unequal treaty.

That was proved when Portugal, still filled with revolutionary and anti-colonial fervour, approached the Chinese delegation to the United Nations. She proposed negotiations to establish diplomatic representation between the two countries and to decide the future of Macau. The Chinese replied that they had no immediate intention to exchange ambassadors, and did not mention their little colony.

This studied disinterest in Macau was seen to be significant. Whether they like it or not, Portugal seems stuck with Macau. Will Britain be stuck with Hongkong beyond 1997? Some knowledgeable people here believe that it is not in the British interest to make a case for ignoring 1997, and allowing the present arrangements to continue in some form, is compelling for some observers.

China is still the Middle Kingdom determined to treat would-be barbarians as such on its own terms. Hongkong is also a more useful factory, in the old and modern sense, than the old maintained in Canton by the East India Company in the 18th century. The then Emperor, the Imperial Dragon, said: "Our colonies are empires, and things in prolific abundance and has no need for the manufactures of outside barbarians."

That was then, true, apart from opium, but not now. Hongkong is a major hard currency earner for China, and the service for exchange, pork, rice and those

delectable but perishable items of Chinese cuisine for Deutch marks and American dollars. The colony has also become the 17th largest exporting country in the world, and a leading commercial, banking and communications centre in Asia.

Remove Hongkong, and where in the eastern rim of the Pacific could China and the outside world meet to do business peacefully and profitably and without objectionable local controls? Certainly not Tokyo, Manila, Hanoi, Singapore, Jakarta or Sydney. There is no other place where China could do business with the outside world, and enjoy the benefits of untrammeled capitalism with an ideologically clear conscience.

The last consideration is of great importance. Hongkong is one of the few places in the world where a laissez-faire economy is allowed to work, and works successfully. Free trade, free enterprise and free money exchange could well be Hongkong's motto. Apart from liquor, tobacco, oil and cars, there are no customs duties, and a simple system of duty-free goods. The VAT, and income tax is only 17 per cent. Income tax is a flat 15 per cent.

It works. Peking knows it works, and it must know that it would cease to work if and when Hongkong returns to China. It also explains why it is possible to permit a laissez-faire economy to continue under its own jurisdiction, which is why activist Chinese students in Hongkong were told to stop playing silly buggers when they demonstrated for its return to China. It also explains why, in part, why the leftist trade unions in the colony are not militant.

Britain is no longer a threat, and the much-liked and respected governor, Sir Murray Maclellan, a diplomat turned administrator, is fully aware that the colony's survival depends upon the relationship with China. He can be no less aware that a discreet Peking administration operates alongside his own. Apart from the staff of the New Chinese News Agency here who keep a sharp and knowledgeable eye on what goes on.

That is why some officials believe that the crown colony of Hongkong is an offering to rational men in Peking, and why the year 1977 could be of little importance. Some changes mutually acceptable to the three partners, China, the people of Hongkong and Britain, might be made, but they are no rational reason why Hongkong should not continue to flourish well into the next century.

This confidence seems to ignore history. Mr. Nehru was not prepared to permit the Portuguese to survive although Goa was a threat to India. The Chinese are a proud people, and while they are primarily concerned with the return of Taiwan they must surely want to expunge the last traces of colonialism.

Well-informed people in and outside of the colonial administration think that the colony confidence could be well founded, but there are obviously three qualifications.

First, the governance of China must remain in the hands of pragmatic men who remember Mr. Chou En-lai as their mentor. Secondly, if foreign investment in Hongkong is to continue, Peking should give some indication of its intentions before the mid-eighties. No need is seen for formal agreement. The oblique way with which the future of Macau was settled would be a warning.

Thirdly, Britain should be willing as is China, to address ideological questions aside, and ponder the future in terms of its own interests and those of the people of Hongkong. There is no reason for it to be more antipathetic than Peking, and it has much to learn from them, but more of that in a second report.

Louis Heren

Argentina: can the President's 'moderate' image last?

When Venezuela's ambassador in Buenos Aires told the press that President Jorge Videla of Argentina would visit Venezuela at the invitation of President Carlos Andres Perez, he was announcing a diplomatic triumph for Perez. Perez has the reputation of seeking to use Venezuela's oil wealth to bring "social" justice to his countrymen.

Among the subjects Videla and Perez will be discussing is the attitude of the new Argentine administration to Latin America. Argentina's military rulers found a sympathetic ear in Washington under the Ford administration, but a growing number of officials have been questioning their government's security assistance programme to Argentina in the light of the military regime's persistent violations of human rights.

President Carter has now decided to override this State Department and cut the programme drastically. Argentina has replied by refusing to accept the reduced allocation, accusing the United States of trying to set itself up as an unofficial international court of justice.

A State Department report had argued that Videla and his colleagues were doing all they could to curb human rights violations. But the report failed to explain the increase in the number of detainees from 4,000 to 6,000 since the military seized power in March. The "disappearance" of some 18,000 more; the activities of the para-police groups whose campaign of abduction and torture has continued with impunity; and the daily toll of "guerrillas" being killed by the security forces in "armed clashes".

The Argentine security forces claim to have killed more than 300 guerrillas in 1976 against insignificant casualties on their side. However, the increasing number of reports now reaching human rights organizations like Amnesty International, "breed the crowd" screams, "the 'armed clashes' reported by the security forces are one of the explanations of the fate of some of those 'disappeared' persons."

The story of the deaths of two prisoners, Darío Cabo and Rufino Uribe while being transferred under armed escort

from one prison to another, was particularly unconvincing. According to the security forces, they were killed when a group of guerrillas ambushed the convoy in an attempt to free them. In addition to the two prisoners, one of the attackers was killed, but the guards somehow came through without a scratch.

Since the coup which overthrew President Isabel Peron, General Videla has been careful to avoid incurring the stigma which has cast the Argentine leader General Pinochet into diplomatic quarantine. How has he managed to project himself as a "moderate" while masterminding a repression every bit as savage and bloody as that seen in Chile?

Death squads or para-police groups are used to terrorize and intimidate the non-violent left. Videla disavows them and explains their existence as an uncontrollable extreme reaction to "subversion". One testimony among many of the active involvement of officers in the police and armed forces in the direction of the death squads came from Father

Patrick Rice, an Irish priest. He was kidnapped in Buenos Aires in October, 1976, by armed and masked men in civilian dress who identified themselves as members of the notorious AAA (Argentine Anticommunist Alliance). Rice took him to a police station where they beat him up, then in an army barracks, where they tortured him. He was finally released in December—by the army. The AAA "has taken responsibility for the kidnappings, attacks and crimes committed on lawyers, trade unionists, politicians, priests, psychiatrists, teachers and journalists, since it first appeared in December 1973."

The state of siege, declared in November, 1974 by the Peronist government, and the institutional Acts declared by the junta in March, 1976, provide a legal framework for the repression. The effect of these laws is to place the military on the same level as armed insurgents, and to withhold the protection of the law from those the military chooses to regard as "subversive".

The main reason for the coup was the inability to control the

workers. On taking power, General Videla identified industrial subversion as the real enemy.

All normal union activities such as collective bargaining, election of officers and holding of meetings were banned under the institutional Acts decreed after the coup. The laws regulating unfair dismissal were annulled, and politically motivated sackings became commonplace. The military was ordered to be adjusted according to increases in the cost of living. Strikes were banned and anyone suspected of organizing industrial action is tried by a military tribunal and faces prison sentences of up to 10 years. The Confederation General de Trabajo (CGT) and the 36 most important unions were "intervened" by the military. Military personnel were introduced into union plants to "increase productivity". Union activity thus became "subversive".

Not surprisingly, the labour front has been far from peaceful since the coup. All the major car manufacturers were hit by strikes last week. Workers at Buenos Aires suffered blackouts in October and

November as electricity workers refused to work except when soldiers appeared.

The tense labour situation is likely to spread as Martinez de Hoz, the Economy Minister, carries out his plan to cut the budget deficit by reducing the public sector payroll by 300,000. As a start, 1,500 employees of the railways and the agriculture ministry have been dismissed. It is hard to see how this can be done without a serious loss of productivity. The National Confederation of Free Trade Unions to respect trade union rights without abandoning the economic model which is the cornerstone of his "New Organization".

So far Videla has had an easy ride, but pressure for human rights continues to grow and his "moderate" image may not survive much longer.

David Wright

The author is a British businessman who worked in Argentina from 1970 to 1975.

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St. John Ambulance: safety in numbers

Men and women in a certain uniform have become such familiar bystanders at public assemblies that the eye passes over them, as over Chesterton's invisible man, without causing a ripple of surprise. These figures in their dark, black uniforms and white cross-belts, wearing the eight-pointed white cross of the medieval republic of Amalfi, lurk discreetly beside the touchlines, in the shadows at the back of the stalls, behind the soldiers and police in their procession routes, and everywhere else that crowds gather.

They have been doing it so efficiently and for so long that we take them for granted: until the crowd screams, or the machine breaks, or the traffic crashes, when their speed and expert presence can make the difference between life and death. Last year the volunteers of the St John Ambulance treated 345,382 patients, giving first aid or more serious medical attention in England. Apart from a small administrative staff, the 90,000 members of the Brigade in England, standing by in case of accident, are unpaid, and most of them even buying their own uniforms.

St John Ambulance is not

part of the National Health Service, though many suppose it to be so because of its ubiquity and its official appearance. It is financed entirely by gifts, and manned and womaned by philanthropic volunteers. It operates in about 100 countries, either of the Commonwealth or formerly of the Commonwealth. Without this mighty army trained in first aid and nursing, life at work and play for all of us would be distinctly more hazardous: death would come sooner for many; and the public services would be even more hard-pressed than they are to cope.

This year the St John Ambulance is celebrating its centenary, so giving us the opportunity to thank our stars of Malta that it is there when we need it. The Queen and her family, who are enthusiastic supporters of an organization that describes itself as the last of the medieval orders of chivalry still performing the practical function for which it was founded, helped to initiate the centenary year by turning out en masse for a very royal royal gala.

The very practical modern

ambulance and first aid services are charitable foundations of what is officially described, in a romantic title whispering the last mumbo-jumbo of the Middle Ages, as the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem in the British Realm. Its Grand Priory has its modern headquarters, at it had its medieval headquarters, at St John's Gate, Clerkenwell. And it traces its origins, by a complicated and somewhat fanciful route, to the Knights Hospitaller of St John at Jerusalem, who provided a hostel for pilgrims to the Holy Land in the Dark Ages.

After a lapse of three centuries the Order was revived in England in 1831, and an English Prior was again appointed. The Sovereign Order in Rome did not recognize it, but in 1882 the English Order established the St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem. The large new hospital, opened in 1960, treats eye diseases from all over the Middle East, and does front-line medical research, especially into the cause and cure of trachoma.

The origins and nomenclature of the St John Ambulance Association and Brigade may be lost in the mists of history. They still boast a Grand Prior and a Bailiff of Egle, and numerous

other fabulous creatures. Their uniform still curiously resembles the medieval painting of a Knight of St John at Rhodes in monastic dress. But their medical services are the best and most up-to-date available to modern society. Their first aid certificates are a week, and if you are injured in fact, office, or street, the first help you will get probably come from someone trained by the St John Ambulance Association.

The St John Ambulance Brigade was founded 10 years later in 1887 to provide a uniformed first aid service of Brigade members (men) and nursing members (women). The Brigade was again reformed in 1921, and in 1982 the English Order established the St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem. The large new hospital, opened in 1960, treats eye diseases from all over the Middle East, and does front-line medical research, especially into the cause and cure of trachoma.

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Philip Howard

The Times Diary

Snapping up the Shaw-fire hits

There hardly ever seems a time when there is not a revival of interest in George Bernard Shaw on the London stage. Last year we had a West End Pantomime and The Royal Shakespeare Company's *The Devil's Disciple*. Both went well, and directors and producers have been keen to exploit more of the Shawian canon.

Some, however, have been thwarted by the fact that any canny impresario, Eddie Kulkundis, has mapped up the current London production rights to some of the choicest Shaw properties. Most notably, Peter Hall came up against Kulkundis when he wanted to do *Man and Superman* at the National Theatre, as part of a sequence of plays incorporating the Don Juan legend.

Hall's Don Juan sequence will include works by Moliere, Byron and Shaw. But it will not include *Man and Superman* because Kulkundis, having acquired the rights from the Society of Authors, has after "fighting for a while with the Royal Court Theatre, done a deal with the Royal Shakespeare Company to allow them to stage it in the West End."

Kulkundis also has the rights to *Man and Superman*, which was one of the factors preventing a West End production of the excellent rendering of the play, starring Susan Hampshire, which I saw at the Hongkong Festival and which has also been played at Leather-

head. Orhan Shaw plays in the Kulkundis portfolio are *Camelot*, which he plans to produce this year, and *Major Barbara*, for which his plans are less certain. Though the Society of Authors own the Shaw rights, any impresario can purchase them for a limited period.

Explaining his decision not to let *Man and Superman* go to London, he said: "There is a St John coming up at the Old Vic and I think that three Shaws at the same time in London is enough. You don't want to overdo it."

As for *Man and Superman*, he says that the Royal Shakespeare got it first, although he admits that he has no reason to be specially fond of it. "I don't ever want to put on *Man and Superman*", he said. "But I couldn't because the National had the rights, though they never produced it."

Absentees

With their insatiable appetite for elections, Americans are about to vote for a new Democratic Party leader. Not that Jimmy Carter, his feet barely

under the Oval office desk, is in any danger: today's election is for the chairman of Democrats Abroad, the organization of party friends and supporters in Britain and Europe.

Three candidates are in the running—Robert Worcester, a market researcher, described by his opponents as reliably liberal but opportunistic and regarded as the favourite; Elwood Rickless, a conservative, who will capture the right-wing vote; and Nathan Silver, an architect, who says he stands for coalition politics. Voting is restricted to the 30 members

of the organization's committee, although there are at least 4,000 active supporters of the Democrats Abroad. Whoever wins, the election promises to usher in an era of more lively political activity than overseas Democrats have known for some time. Recent changes in United States law have made the voting procedure much easier for Americans living abroad: and Anthony Hyde, the outgoing chairman, has been criticized for his lack of fire. "This outfit has had too much of a garden club quality about it," commented one of Hyde's potential successors. In three candidates are pro-Carter and a Democrat who telephoned me said they were all "very excited about Jimmy's brilliant start."

Ol' four-eyes A Newbury reader was surprised, on going to her local shop to buy a pair of glasses, to find a four-year-old son in the queue. She was surprised to discover that they were available only in packets of four. Her experience was limited to two packets of four, and she reported that the four-eyed teddy bear was a Luncheon speciality which had not yet reached the metropolis.

The Japanese-made eyes are packed and distributed by a handicrafts firm in Preston. He rang them to discover if the four-eyed teddy bear was a Luncheon speciality which had not yet reached the metropolis.

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The man in charge of glass eyes explained: "We vary the quantity according to the price. We have a packet of four for 10p, and a packet of 10 for 25p. So they are all priced at 25p." So eyes come at 8p each. Then he added proudly: "We also do a special pack of 10 pairs of eyes."

"It's the same with buttons. If you go to buy four spare buttons, they always come in packets of five." Some shops, he added, do buy their glass eyes in bulk and sell them singly. "But since we started packaging them we are selling three times as many." Twice as many, he understood, and three times is a real marketing success.

The reader, I fear, has fallen hook, line and sinker for this sales ploy: she is now making a second Paddington Bear for her daughter.

Nature's way I had the good fortune to come across the Ace Alcott, my neighbouring Brixton allotment-holder, during my stint on the plot at the weekend. Although I had been keeping the patches up to scratch, our sessions have not, in recent months, coincided. He showed, how long ago it was when he told me that he had seen the television programme about this diary in *The Big Time* series, and that was screened last November.

He arrived as I was carrying forks of grass and weeds to the pile by the fence. "What are you doing that for?" he challenged. "Just spread it round where you're going to put your potatoes in. But heek in what nature takes out, that's what I say."

He showed me where he had done just that on his potential potato plot; but he can even spread weeds over the ground in a neat and orderly fashion, whereas when I do the same it looks as though I have not started my winter digging. We discussed fertilizer in general, and when I said I had just put on a dressing of bone meal he scoffed.

"Never use any of those things," he said. "I just use lime and soot, spurn from bits of grass and waste. Nature's way—that's good enough for me."

It has, he said, been some of the best early spring weather he can remember and he is ahead of his potatoes. "But heek in what nature takes out, that's what I say."

Finally, he said that he was going to try some new vegetables this year, but when I asked him what species he would not tell me. To encourage him, I confessed that I had grown some globe artichoke from seed last year and hoped for a crop this summer. He did not comment, but showed distinct signs of disapproval. Such middle-class nonsense is clearly not what he has in mind.

Educational standards are as high as ever in Chatham where the Chatham News, boasting that its huge competition is a contest "of fun and SKILL," defies its readers with the brain-teasing problem: "Add 3 to a dozen."

Flat heads Last month, in pursuit of the Diary's policy of bringing you all the most vital global information, we reported a new world record for the carrying of fruit baskets on the head. The report included an observation by the record-holder, George Gurnidge, that his head had become flattened through constant weight-carrying.

Now, from Oxford, I learn that flat-headed heads, characterized by what scientists call post-brachycephalic flattening, is as old as the Bronze Age in Cyprus. Excavations at Kition (near present-day Larnaca) have uncovered adult female skeletons with this deformity.

Jeffrey Schwartz, in a commentary on the find, suggests that such deformations were deliberately induced in infancy by binding the child to an L-shaped cradle board (see illustration). The wild, flattened top of the infant's soft skull, so that the child could carry heavy objects, more easily. Modern medical and anthropological opinion would presumably rule out the device for record-setting market porters.

Similar things are afoot in Dorset, Surrey, where a firm advertises in *Compromising Missions* an experienced grammarian to join a small friendly team who are among the world leaders in World Peace. Among the activities of the company is the "advertising" says, "is the building." A case for Dr. Who?

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FLORIDA

a Special
Report

Late start gives chance to learn from past

by Patrick Brogan

Florida is a state of mind. For the inhabitants of the rest of the Union, it is a long sandbank dripping down from Georgia, with exotic vegetation and a perfect climate. Every girl in the frozen north dreams of a Florida suntan, every child dreams of Disney World, everyone dreams of Cape Kennedy and the Apollo adventure and it is well known: that good Americans, before they die, go to Florida.

It looks different to people who live there. Old-established natives of the place (people who have been there more than 10 years) note with astonishment the changes they have seen. Miami will soon have a Spanish-speaking majority. Tampa is becoming an important industrial zone, growing at enormous speed. Florida, they say, will be the second most populous state in the Union by the year 2000 (after California) and is already setting an example to the world in protecting the environment while encouraging frenetic growth.

Both those images are correct. Twenty-nine million visitors cannot be wrong. Florida is the perfect place for a holiday, one sort of holiday anyway. It is also growing in population faster than any other state of the Union, in a process with many of the characteristics of the mass immigrations of the nineteenth century, and it has to offer its new citizens a diversity of resources and opportunities to balance their own variety.

There is another side to it. The fruit and vegetables are picked by migrant labourers, most of them Spanish-speaking, who move from farm to farm and follow the crops across the United States. They live in poverty and squalor, and full flood of an American dream (not just Florida) allows it because to pay them a decent wage would mean paying two or three times as much for oranges or tomatoes.

The misery is equalled by that of the Seminole Indians, subsisting in the swamps (some of them still cannot speak English), who have never accepted America and who are a liv-

ing and enduring reminder of one of the great wrongs of American history.

Florida is fortunate in that it started growing on this scale fairly recently and can thus see the mistakes made by California the golden. It will be some time before Tampa-St Petersburg catches up with Los Angeles and it thus has the opportunity to do things rather better than that city.

It can also learn from its own mistakes. The great boom area of the 1950s and 1960s was Miami, particularly Miami Beach, where the lure of profits was irresistible and the hotels and jointly owned flats, known as condominiums, were built up to the water's edge. When the construction was finished and the place completely ruined, others took warning.

Fort Lauderdale, up the coast, has a wide and beautiful beach and keeps the buildings across the road behind it. It therefore prospers while Miami Beach is beginning to look very run-down.

Florida is also fortunate in its size. It covers 54,000 sq miles (England covers 30,000 sq miles) with a population of 8,500,000. There is thus plenty of room for growth.

Like everywhere else, Florida has suffered from the recession. Its coasts are lined with blocks of flats, unsold or uncompleted. Things are now looking up and the state confidently expects the fast rate of expansion of earlier years to be resumed. This is where the Governor, Mr Reuben Askew, and his administration, and that of his successor in 1979, will face their most serious challenge.

It is all very well to protect the environment and control growth during a recession. It is quite another thing to face the full flood of an American boom and protect the air, the waters, the beaches and the farmlands from destruction.

Mr Askew is confident that it can be done. Laws are not enough because exemptions can always be made but there are stringent laws on the books to protect the environment and commissions to control expansion. The main thing is the people, and Mr Askew says that all Florida now shares his concern for the environment.

He is probably right, at least as far as a majority of Floridians are concerned.

Everyone can see what happens when the developers are allowed a clear run and there have been so many scandals, and so many innocent (or foolish) people have lost their savings, that further development in Florida, at least for the next few years, will probably be adequately controlled.

It is 1,000 miles from Pensacola to Miami. Senator Lawton Chiles walked it in 1970 to win the Democratic primary (and then the election), showing his concern with everybody in the state. The western strip of Florida, along the Gulf coast, is steamy, swampy and an extension of southern Alabama and Georgia. It also has the reputation of being one of the last strongholds of American racism.

'Pork-chopper' period at an end

Much of northern and central Florida is forest (more than half the state is forested) and is not heavily populated. This was the area which dominated Florida politics until the courts ordered congressional and state assembly districts reapportioned according to population. The northern bosses were known as the "pork-choppers", as opposed to the "lamb-choppers" of the south, because of an alleged difference in taste between the people of the two areas.

The pork-choppers resisted reapportionment as long as they could (one-man-one-vote became a reality only in 1972), but their era of Florida politics is now as remote as the world of Scarlett O'Hara. Central and southern Florida now dominate the state.

Jacksonville, on the north east coast, has a population of 500,000 and is one of the largest cities in the world (840 sq miles) because it annexed its suburbs and the countryside. It is one of Florida's main growth points, but is none the less eclipsed by Tampa, Orlando and Miami.

The citrus groves begin in central Florida, and stretch for scores of miles in every direction. Then come the

vegetable fields which are rivalled in North America only by California.

On the east coast, Tampa-St Petersburg have between them a population of 1,250,000 or so and are now the main centres of industrial growth in Florida. Orlando, in the centre of Florida, is the agricultural capital of the state, and also the home of Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Goofy.

Down most of the length of the east coast of Florida run a series of sand bars and islands. The best known of them is Miami Beach, which is covered with cement. Others are kept as parks, including most of the island of Key Biscayne immediately south of Miami Beach, where President Nixon had his "southern White House".

At the tip of the peninsula they run off in a series of islands 150 miles south and west into the Caribbean. The last of them is Key West, and although the first few keys are commercialized and depressing, the ones farther out have been protected by strict zoning laws and preservation orders. They are very beautiful.

They are linked by a causeway, originally built for a railway, and it is one of the most spectacular drives in the United States. One of the bridges is seven miles long.

By the time Mr Chiles reached Key West he had won so much favourable publicity that he had assured his victory in the Democratic primary. At the same time a little-known state legislator from Pensacola, Mr Reuben Askew, won the Democratic nomination for governor on the novel platform that corporations ought to pay taxes, that government ought to be honest and that Florida should have effective land-use legislation.

He and Mr Chiles were both elected and a new era in Florida politics began. Mr Askew got his programme through the legislature and won easy reelection in 1974 (he cannot run a third time and there is a brisk fight gathering way to succeed him in 1978).

The Governor supported asking, at a time when Mr George Wallace was the state's favourite politician, and has enforced "sunshine laws" in the state government, which ensure that

every meeting of legislative committees is open to the press.

He represented the New South and was often mentioned as a possible vice-president or even president. He chose not to run, however, which was probably fortunate because another New South governor, Mr Jimmy Carter of Georgia, also elected in 1970, had ambitions of his own.

The relations between the two are a matter of much curiosity. They were not friends in the days when Mr Carter was Governor of Georgia. It is said that Mr Carter missed no opportunity of upstaging his fellow-governors, including Mr Askew, and that they did not like it.

Mr Askew conspicuously did not support Mr Carter during the Florida primary a year ago. In fact he supported Senator Henry Jackson, though not warmly enough to make much difference. The election was one of the crucial events in Mr Carter's march to the White House. He was running against Mr Wallace and if he had lost, his campaign would have ended there and Mr Ford would probably still be President.

Florida's liberal Democrats supported Mr Carter not because they loved him, although many came to do so later, but because he was the best bet to defeat Mr Wallace. He had just suffered a serious defeat in the Massachusetts primary and needed all the support he could get.

So Governor Askew's coolness was ill received. Mr Carter won 34 per cent of the vote, Mr Wallace 31 per cent and Senator Jackson 24 per cent. However, the President seems to have forgiven and forgotten and has appointed Mr Askew to be chairman of a committee to examine the qualification of people nominated to ambassadorships.

Florida, with a Democratic Governor and two Democratic senators, has thus mended its bridges with Washington. Coping with the recession and the weather is not so easy.

The year began badly with high unemployment, a continuing recession in construction, a frost which caused severe damage to the tomato crop and hurt the citrus fruits, and a vote by the City Council of Miami

continued on page 1V

Miami Beach, a sand bar covered with cement.

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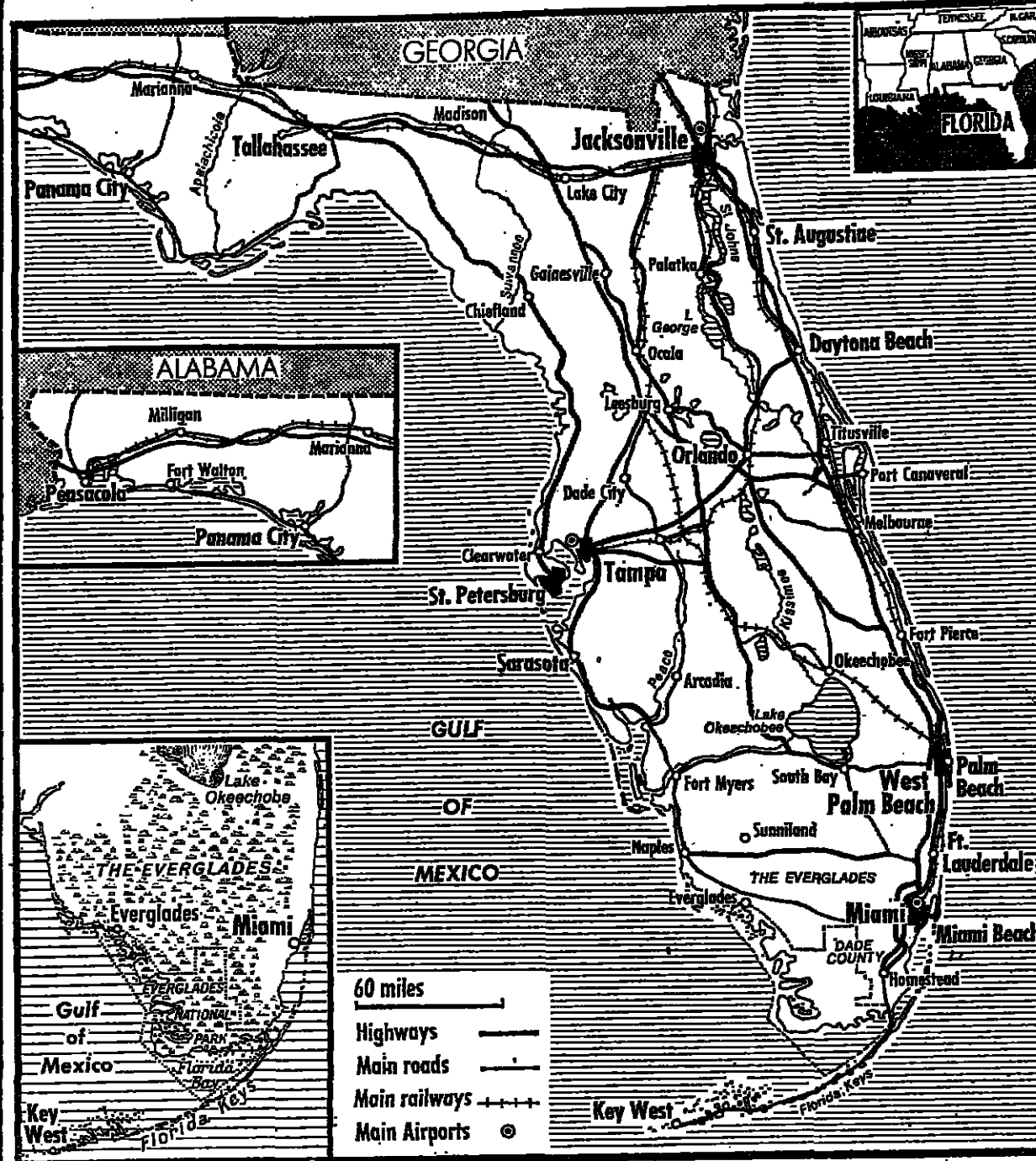
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From swamps to riches

by Patrick Brogan

Florida was bought by the United States from Spain in 1821 for \$5m. The Spaniards had controlled it on and off, for 300 years without deriving any benefit from it. Their most notable contribution to Florida's history was the extermination of most of its indigenous Indians.

They left a few place names, including Cape Canaveral, St. Augustine and some earthworks with some of those astonishing examples of heroism and endurance which marked the history of the Conquistadores in Florida.

French Huguenots founded a colony in northern Florida and were massacred by the Spaniards in 1565. The British acquired it in 1763, after the Seven Years' War, but found no particular use or profit in it and returned it to Spain in 1783 after losing the 13 colonies. Neither French nor British left any mark at all on Florida.

Spain sold Florida because it could not be defended against the United States and because it was not worth defending. Florida is a modern creation. Until the nineteenth century its inhabitants lacked the technology, the investment and the manpower to develop its swamps and sandbanks were too much for the Spaniards.

Their attempts to conquer it were romantic enough,

however, and Mrs Jahoda describes them with verve and skill. But they belong to the state's prehistory; the real history of the place begins with Andrew Jackson and the Seminole wars.

The Seminole Indians are a branch of the Creeks, who were some of the most advanced of North American Indian tribes, and lived in Alabama and Georgia until driven out by the Americans. Some took refuge in Florida and changed their name. In due course, President Jackson decreed that they should follow their cousins to Oklahoma.

The second Seminole war lasted from 1835 to 1842 and cost \$40m and an untold number of lives. The Seminole chief was Osceola, now rightly remembered as a hero, who was finally captured and left to die in a cell. Most of the Seminoles were killed, captured or surrendered and the survivors deported westward.

One small band retreated into the very depths of the Everglades and survived. Their descendants are still there, living in poverty and, according to Mrs Jahoda, keeping the flames of resistance alight.

Then came the settlers to drain the swamps and clear the land. Mrs Jahoda paints a marvellous picture of the process, the cycle of boom and bust in the real estate market, the collapse of the

1920s following a winter's frost, the splendours of Palm Beach, before the last war the richest playground for the richest of Americans, the astonishing story of Miami.

The book is one of a series conceived to mark the Bicentennial with one volume on the history of each of the states. It is well-written, entertaining and informative. It is true that Mrs Jahoda is lucky in her state: it would be very difficult to write a dull history of Florida.

She mentions one worthy effort, however, a book about Palm Beach published 10 years ago which never mentioned the Kennedy family. Joe Kennedy had a large estate there and his sons frequently visited him. But he was Irish, Roman Catholic and rather vulgar, and so Palm Beach preferred to ignore him.

The history of Florida, like that of the western states, was made by its immigrants. Successive waves of Spanish-speaking people from South America have settled there. Tampa, for instance, had a large colony from Cuba, making cigars.

There are Greek sponge-divers on the west coast, Yiddish-speaking refugees from eastern European pogroms ending their days on the Gold Coast, and gentle- men of Sicilian antecedents interested in the hotel business in Miami Beach. When a Senate committee tried to

investigate the Mafia's involvement with the CIA in attempts to have Dr Castro murdered, one key witness was found shot in his basement in Chicago and another, Mr John Rosselli, was fished up at sea, in a barrel, off the coast of Florida.

Thus does nature outdo art. By and large, however, Florida has had a peaceful existence since the Seminole war (it played only a peripheral role in the Civil War, although it seceded like the rest of the South) and violence has come from hurricanes more often than from political or criminal disputes.

Ponce de Leon, the first European to set foot in North America since the Vikings, came to Florida in 1513 seeking Eldorado or the Fountain of Youth. He found neither, but a large part of today's population have found acceptable alternatives, and a still larger portion of citizens of more northerly and cooler states believe that those magic places are still to be found in Florida.

The state's history has taken a new departure since the last war, with a rapid growth in population and wealth. Florida now seems destined to become one of the most populous and richest of the states in the union within a decade—a result which would have surprised the Spaniards and other early settlers who found its swamps and insects, its Indians and its hurricanes inhospitable.

Playground of the masses

by Sydney Paulden

From being the playground of the wealthy, Florida is now in the mass entertainment market and could well become the next important area for exploitation by European package tour operators.

Hotels in Florida used to open for the four winter months, to accommodate the well-funded globe-trotters in search of guaranteed sunshine, but now more than 27 million tourists visit the state annually. In some areas the seasonal fluctuation has all but disappeared, with only May and September lying low on the graphs.

The biggest single cause of the change was the opening in 1971 of Disney World at Orlando (not to be confused with the original Disneyland in California). The 27,000-acre site copes with as many as 60,000 visitors a day during school holidays and has its own hotels, including one with a monorail.

Other hotels, motels and tourist attractions, are springing up alongside Disney World. The Orlando Hyatt Hotel World, with its no-key electronic bedroom locks and its 10 swimming pools, illustrates how the big hotel and entertainment groups are cashing in on the Disney attraction. Dotted round the hitherto unremarkable Orlando landscape are a Hilton, a Sheraton, the Stars

Hall of Fame Waxworks, the Mystery Fun House, the Circus World and the Sea World. One hour's drive to the east, the John F. Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral has 16,000 visitors a day to view the rockets, space capsules and launching pads made familiar by television.

Orlando has been very much a national playground for motorists from other states. Now, however, Orlando airport has been granted international status and is preparing to welcome direct flights from overseas.

The second factor to have an impact on Florida tourism was the energy crisis of 1973. Petrol costs rose and a 55 mph speed limit was placed on all roads in the United States. That effectively cut the southern and most traditional tourist area of Florida off from many who drove down to Disney World. Fewer and fewer did the extra 400 miles to Miami. The result is that although the figures for the state showed an increase in 1975 over 1974, from 25 million tourists to 27 million, who spent \$9,100m instead of \$6,700m, Miami and

Miami Beach recorded a decline in their number of visitors in both those years. The picture for the southern tip of Florida is not all gloom. There has been an upsurge in the number of visitors flying into Miami from Latin American countries. They came in hundreds of thousands rather than in millions, but they spent money out of

all proportion to their numbers. Whereas the average American holiday-maker spends \$50 a stay in that area, his Latin American counterpart spends \$1,000.

"We have had as many as 28,000 Brazilians here in a single month", the Miami Tourist Office says. Their spending power is confirmed by Captain Robert Waldron, director of the port of Miami: "When 700 or 800 people come off one of the cruise ships that use us as a port of call, they stagger back on board having bought everything that isn't nailed down."

Miami is popular with Latin Americans because it is almost bilingual in Spanish, because tens of thousands of Cubans have settled there in the past 20 years. Miami International airport ranks second to Kennedy in New York in numbers of passenger airlines. There are terminals for 46 scheduled lines and 45 others making irregular calls. The man-made port of Miami on its rectangular plot in Biscayne Bay is now the world's biggest cruise port, the base for 17 ships offering weekend, week-long or two-week trips round the Caribbean. In 1976 more than a million cruise passengers used the port.

Miami Beach is a separate town, with 90,000 inhabitants and seven miles of beach on a strip only one mile wide. There are 352 hotels offering 29,000 rooms. In spite of its anxiety about competition from Orlando, Miami Beach is

well served by tourist attractions near by. The Everglades National Park—thousands of square miles of mangrove swamps full of magnificent wild life—can be reached in an easy drive. Within the county, there is every kind of fishing, horse-racing and dog-racing facilities, golf courses and those typically American set attractions, such as the Palm Jumeirah and the Planet Ocean, where the visitor can walk through a simulated hurricane. The beach boasts 400 tennis courts and the weather to enjoy them.

Many of the visitors are delegates to conventions. The Hyatt in Orlando does 40 per cent of its business from conferences and is aiming for 50 per cent. Miami Beach stages 600 conventions a year and now has a \$64m convention centre that could accommodate, for example, all the 20,000 delegates to the American College of Surgeons Convention in one place at the same time.

Mr Brock sees immense business growth in South America for Florida's economy, as do many other businessmen in the state. The transport system and the development plans now under way certainly make Florida a state from which the business executive can travel easily to almost any point on the globe.

Big plans to expand transport

by Frank Vogl

Communications within Florida by road, rail and air, and transportation from Florida to the rest of the United States and to South America are outstandingly good. The state has almost 1,000 miles of high quality motorways. It has 14 deep-water ports, it is served by an extensive rail system and it boasts many good airports. Miami airport is one of the busiest in the United States and Tampa's airport is among the most modern in the world.

Big expansion programmes are either underway or being planned in almost all of the state's transportation areas and perhaps these more than anything else attest to the real confidence about the future growth of the state's commercial base which now exists in Florida.

For example, Mr Frank Clewis of the Tampa Port Authority outlined to me a vast expansion programme for the port, which has seen an increase of 365 per cent in tonnage handled in the past 15 years. This port has just started a six-year programme, costing about \$120m, to deepen the channels to 43ft from 34ft.

It is likely to have a new roll-on, roll-off pier completed by the end of this year. Plans are set for new facilities for Tampa's fishing fleet; work is about to start on a \$23m dry dock with an expanded wet dock for repairs in prospect; and land reclamation plans are set to expand the port's general cargo facilities, which already include two modern 100,000 sq ft areas.

Tampa handles more tonnage than any other port in the state—41 million tons in 1975, which was 56 per cent of the total for Florida ports. It is eighth in size in the United States and fourth for export business. It is bound to grow rapidly, especially as it is the closest major port to the Panama Canal and because of the potential expansion of trade between the United States and South America.

World's largest cruise ship port

Jacksonville's port is the second largest in Florida and also has plans for great expansion. It is already the most important container cargo port in the state. Port Everglades, which like the others has substantial expansion plans, is the leading tanker port, and the Miami port is the largest cruise ship port in the world, having handled more than a million passengers in the past fiscal year.

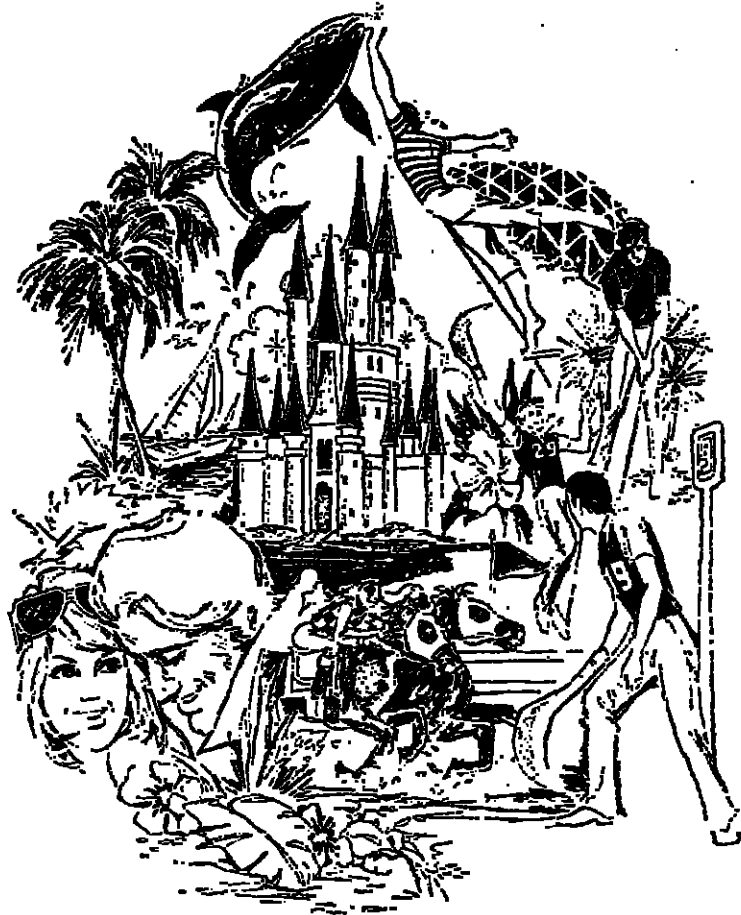
Competition between the airlines serving Florida is intense. On the east coast routes the leading rivals are National, Delta and Eastern, and National has a slight advantage because of its international route network, notably its direct London-Miami schedule. Mr J. Dan Brock, National's marketing vice-president, says that Miami is going to grow rapidly as a gateway for travellers from the United States and South America to Europe. His company and the state's airport authorities are evidently planning for such an expansion, and National has already applied for more routes to Europe.

Mr Brock notes that National is smaller than Delta and Eastern. "So we feel we have to move faster and offer better service," he says. Among special services provided by National are its packages linking travellers to cruise holiday by way of the port of Miami.

National and Delta have modern fleets serving the main airports of the state, and some of the remoter parts are served by a couple of smaller airlines. Florida has 350 airports, and 24 of these have scheduled airline services.

Any judgement regarding which of the leading airlines offers the best service must be highly subjective. Having flown recently on each of the three, I would rank Delta clearly in first place, but so fierce is the competition, the traveller is mostly well served whichever he chooses.

Mr Brock sees immense business growth in South America for Florida's economy, as do many other businessmen in the state. The transport system and the development plans now under way certainly make Florida a state from which the business executive can travel easily to almost any point on the globe.



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Frank Vogl, United States Economics Correspondent, discusses the prospects for business and describes three of its aspects

Uncertainties dominated the outlook for Florida's economy as 1977 started. Cold weather did some damage to the tourist industry, seriously affecting agriculture and leading the federal government to declare the state a "disaster area". There was also a strike at some Miami Beach hotels.

The worst of the cold weather was seen on January 20 and there are indications that the gloomiest predictions made at the time were unjustified. The huge

citrus crops—Florida produces 20 per cent of the world's oranges and half of the world's grapefruit—were not as badly hit by the freeze as had been feared. There was little tree damage and record output seems in prospect.

The vegetable crops in south Florida were seriously hit, but new planting swiftly started and there is a danger now of an over-abundance of output in the state in the spring. "We are counting on heavy West European

purchases," says Mr. John Siles, the marketing director at the Florida Department of Agriculture. The agricultural business in the state accounted for farm incomes of \$2,425m in 1975.

Tourism is another major state industry and the development of Disney World near Orlando has strengthened this aspect of the state's tourist trade, with Disney World alone attracting about 10 million visitors last year. Hopes are high throughout the state of another record tourist year this year, in

spite of the fairly poor start in January. The state is fairly diversified and subject to many of the same general pressures evident in the United States economy. Florida's recovery from the recession has been slower than that of the nation as a whole, just as its unemployment rate is above the national average. The key factor is the major position of the construction industry in the state and its generally depressed condition.

A revival of construction is widely expected. Rising personal incomes coupled with record recent rates of personal savings are providing an environment that is likely to ensure significant overall economic growth this year for the state—possibly 3 to 4 per cent in real terms. There is no doubt that a larger general manufacturing base would strengthen the economy and make it less prone to the volatile tourist and building industries.

BANKING

I returned from Miami, by the fact that their total deposits at \$25,723m for 1976, is greater than the total deposits of the commercial banks. The banker—it seemed such a comfortable way to make a lot of money.

Most of the banks in the state have ample time to play golf, enjoy the beach and the sun, and see their balance sheets grow by leaps and bounds. The maintenance of laws that restrict competition and the massive population explosion enjoyed by Florida (40 per cent since 1970) have produced this situation.

The state has 748 commercial banks. Most of them are small and enjoy almost a complete monopoly in the communities they serve. The total deposits of all the banks on June 30, 1976, was \$24,600m, according to the Florida Bankers' Association. The only two bank holding companies had deposits of more than \$2,000m (Southwest Banking Corporation and Bank of Florida).

Branch banking was outlawed until the start of this year. The change in the law only goes some way toward allowing a bank to open a great many branches by limiting it to the opening of no more than two branches a year in a Florida county. Moreover, foreign banks are not allowed to establish offices in the state.

Few of the banks can be termed aggressive. Most of the banks are content to concentrate on basic retail business, leaving the nation's largest banks to serve the commercial financial needs of the state's largest business enterprises. There are changes in the offing, which might provide a rude awakening for some of the state's most lethargic bankers, but it will be many years before the competitive climate reaches the pitch now evident, for example, in California.

Most growth dates from the 1950s

Mr. Joel Wells, Jr., president of the Sun Bank in Orlando, says that banking in Florida is young, as is the whole of the state's general economic development. Most of the banks have been established in the past 40 years and few of them showed any significant growth until the 1950s.

Bank holding companies really got off the ground in the 1960s by means of affiliation between numerous individual banks. The history of the Sun Bank illustrates banking progress in the state. The First National Bank of Orlando was organized in 1934 and its assets totalled \$35m by 1951. A holding company was formed in 1967 to bring together just a few affiliated institutions that had combined assets of about \$150m.

By the end of 1975 Sun Banks of Florida had 39 subsidiary commercial banks and two non-bank subsidiaries and total group assets of \$1,702m. The subsidiary banks mostly have their own individual identities and their own directors and the group lacks the tight consolidation of activities that would arise were all its subsidiaries just branches of a central bank.

Mr. Alexander Wolfe, chairman of the Southeast group's largest bank, the Southeast First National Bank of Miami, says that the affiliate system can give a banking group a stronger position in the retail market and permit greater coverage of the whole state, although he does note that consolidation would produce a stronger capital base and possibly a more efficient management.

The greatest competition the commercial bankers face in Florida is from the savings and loans associations. They can, and do, have branches and they have managed to convince the commercial banks to co-operate with them in such a way that they overcome some of the problems of not being allowed to issue cheque books to their customers.

The strength and skills of these financial institutions is, perhaps, best reflected

by the fact that their total deposits at \$25,723m for 1976, is greater than the total deposits of the commercial banks. The banker—it seemed such a comfortable way to make a lot of money.

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INCENTIVES

"Florida has the reputation abroad of being the land of alligators and Mickey Mouse," according to Mr. Floyd Whiddon of the state's Economic Development Bureau. It is the state that offers sunshine to the old seeking a comfortable place to retire to and to the tourist, but it is not a formidable industrial manufacturing area.

Florida's economy is largely based on its agricultural, tourist and construction industries. It desperately needs more manufacturing to provide stability. The state's authorities recognize this and they are doing all they can to attract manufacturers.

The list of incentives to manufacturers is formidable, as long as the prime interest for the producer is going to be either the South American market or the growing market of the south-eastern United States, or a combination of the two.

Florida is poorly placed, irrespective of its excellent road, rail, sea and air transport, to serve as a location for a manufacturer aiming to distribute to the United States national market.

The state's construction industry is vast, but, despite hopes of sharp growth, it seems doubtful if there is much scope for new manufacturers to enter the business. Food processing is also already highly developed and most competitive, particularly in citrus concentrates.

The companies most likely to prosper in manufacturing in Florida are those involved in consumer goods. The population of the state and of the south-eastern United States is increasing rapidly. The range of rapidly growing industries in the state is considerable, running from textiles to film making. Electronics manufacturers have enjoyed substantial

development in Florida, as have manufacturers of leisure goods, such as sports equipment, toys and other general consumer products. American companies are aware of the market's potential and foreign manufacturers ought to note that to develop there means participating in an already highly competitive market.

Mr. Joe Kennedy, director of Florida's economic development division at the Department of Commerce in Tallahassee, notes correctly that the south-east is the growth market of the United States and that Florida enjoys the fastest population growth in the region.

The population is now more than eight million, having expanded by 25 per cent between 1970 and 1975. In 1983, according to a Florida University study, the population should exceed 10,500,000, then rise to more than 11,500,000 by 1990.

The per capita income in 1974, corrected for inflation, was \$4,381 in Louisiana and \$4,751 in Georgia.

The number of old people in the United States is rising and many of these people are likely to take their substantial pensions to Florida for tourism or for permanent residency in coming years.

An attraction for these people, for new companies and for executives and immigrant workers of all types, is the lack of a state personal income tax. This is a key factor in explaining why executive remuneration in the state tends to be lower than the national average. It is also part of the reason for the fairly low average wage level of non-executive employees in the state.

Local experts were slower to perceive the decline of the central region, having been evidently carried away by the massive growth of Disney World, which managed to attract about 10 million tourists last year.

Mr. Brenner says that mortgage demand in the state is still very weak: in spite of First Federal, for example, offering an 8½ per cent rate, which is lower than the national average rate. There are many unsold condominiums, although estimates of the total vary greatly.

Mr. Fischer says it may take another four or five years before all the condominiums built in the boom period have been sold, although new building is slowly getting started, with greater growth already evident for single-family homes.

"Fire sales" are taking place for the worst built condominiums, Mr. Brenner says, and the newspapers seem full of special bargain sales.

Mr. Schulte sees the housing market recovering faster than the market for land, but says that foreign investment in property is gathering momentum. About 30 per cent of Deltona's sales last year were made abroad (the company has an office in Frankfurt).

Most of the foreign investment interest is coming from South America, with significant German and British interest and, unsurprisingly, considerable purchases by United States military personnel based overseas.

Mr. Lacombe is forecasting an 8 per cent economic growth this year for South Florida, which should aid the property business recovery. "The condominium market is going to come back, there is no doubt about that," he says.

His colleague, Mr. Mackie, suggests that property prices have reached the bottom and will start rising. "People know Florida, the sunshine and the beaches and they know this is a good place to come and live," he says. It is this widely held view that makes the experts in Florida optimistic, despite the very tough period they have just gone through.

Florida has the highest per capita property tax level of any state in the south-east at about \$154 on average in 1974, which, nevertheless, compares with a national average of about \$226. Florida's corporate tax rate is also below the levels of most states.

Unemployment in Florida is about 9.5 per cent, compared with a recession peak in 1975 of more than 12 per cent. Wage rates are roughly comparable with neighbouring states and well below the national average.

Officials in the state government and businessmen continually mention the proximity to South America as a key reason why manufacturers should establish themselves in Florida. The state's Department of Commerce is deeply involved in aiding local manufacturers with trade promotion and it appears to be highly aware of the detailed market opportunities in Central and South America. Numerous multinational corporations already have their Latin American head offices in Florida.

There is increasing concern in the state about urban planning after what Mr. Bob Williams, at the Department of Commerce, admitted had been a long period of "raping and pillaging" of the land by construction companies. There is also growing concern about the general industrial environment.

Walt Disney looks as if he knew what he was doing a few years ago when he decided to turn 27,000 acres of central Florida into an amusement park. He saw the tourist and population growth potential. He recognized the state's many transport assets. He took advantage of the sunshine. It is just these same factors, rather than the tax incentives, for example, that are likely to convince many manufacturers to set up there rather than in other south-eastern states.

PROPERTY

"We are just coming out of probably the worst recession ever experienced by Florida's building industry," according to Mr. Louis Fischer, president and chief executive officer of the large General Development Corporation. "The worst is behind us, I don't think there is any question about that."

Similar views are widely heard in the diverse, colourful and temperamental world of Florida real estate brokers, property developers and mortgage bankers.

But it may take another one or two years before the property market has fully recovered from the shocks of the recession, says Mr. Richard Schulte, senior vice-president for marketing of the Deltona Corporation. Exactly the same thing was said by Mr. Robert Brenner, senior vice-president at the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Miami.

Mr. Brenner notes that for the past two years much of the building industry in Florida has been at a standstill. "Many of our competitors have gone out of business," Mr. Fischer says. And according to Mr. Frank Mackie III, a director of Deltona and the company's executive vice-president, construction volume in Florida is probably little more than 30 to 40 per cent of what it was three or four years ago.

The recession had many effects on the property business, quite apart from bankrupting dozens of companies. Unemployment in the construction industry remains very high and, while building costs have continued to rise, the productivity of labour has increased, Mr. Mackie says.

Tampa and St Petersburg on the west to Daytona on the east and embracing the north, including Jacksonville, is often called the "golden girdle".

Finally, there is the north, which Mr. J. T. Williams, president of Killebrew Properties in Tallahassee, calls the "sleeping giant". Companies like Deltona and General Development have developed large communities across the state and their officials thus have an overview of the three regions. Mr. Schulte suggests that the greatest growth will be in the central region. He notes that inland property is cheaper, with houses rather than small condominiums being available and with more substantial general economic growth likely in this area.

Mr. Fischer also believes in the potential of the central region. "The average American is not going to be able to afford coastal prime property," he says.

There are many lakes and rivers in the state. Accessibility to water is more important than actually living on the water... and Disney World really put this area on the map.

Mr. Joel Wells, president of Sun Banks of Florida, of Orlando, emphasizes that Orlando is rapidly developing into the main business and transit centre of the state, with the Disney World complex having certainly provided fresh stimulus.

The experts all believe the south, especially the highly congested Miami area, will continue to experience substantial growth, if only because it is warmer than elsewhere and because there are still many Americans and foreigners with a lot of money to spend on a home. There is clearly some concern about Miami Beach, which definitely needs a facelift that is likely to cost vast sums. But in the southern region it may well be that the Naples area experiences the greatest development.

The topography of the north is attractive and with land cheaper and utility rates lower as well, there is likely to be considerable development there. The north, says Mr. Brenner, did not enjoy the massive construction boom like the other regions and thus the industry there was not as badly hit by the recession as it was in the central and southern regions.

Many local banks saw problems ahead for the in-

dustrial in the south as early as 1972 and, while they took substantial losses, it was largely the real estate investment trusts financed by the big Chicago and New York banks that took the greatest losses.

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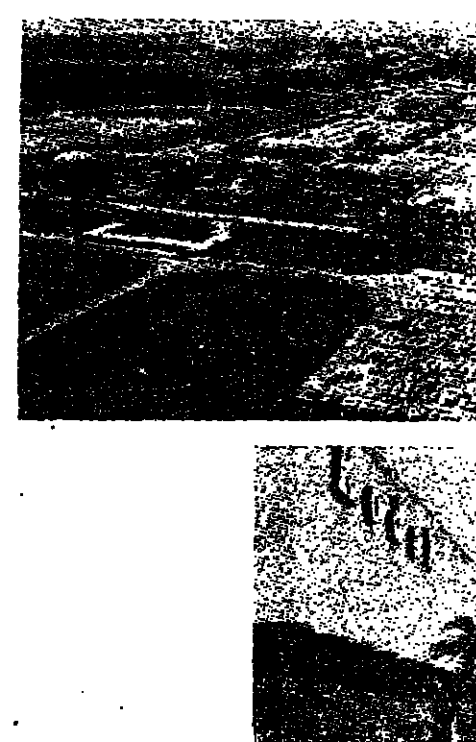


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FLORIDA
THE PLACE TO BE FOR BUSINESS

Deposits that enrich the land

by Susan Allen

There is more to the sunshine state than sun. More to Florida land than golden beaches. Underneath Bone Valley in west central Florida lies one of the world's greatest phosphate deposits, a rich resource that has made the state a leading producer of commercial fertilizers.

The Jay oilfield, discovered in 1970 in north-west Florida, was the latest on-shore discovery in 20 years in the United States. Florida is the ninth-ranking mineral producer in the nation, with a production value of more than \$1.700m last year.

Florida produces about 40 million short tons of phosphate a year—30 per cent of American and a third of world production. It exports about 14 million tons a year—second only to Morocco. Next to tourism, the phosphate industry is the state's highest income earner, contributing about 61,000 jobs and \$1,500m a year in gross output.

International Minerals and Chemicals Corporation, with three open pit mines and plants in Florida, is the largest independent producer of phosphates in the world, and accounts for about 30 per cent of state production.

The phosphates industry experienced unprecedented growth from 1973 to 1975, when world food stocks were at their lowest level and farmers the world over clamoured for more fertilizer. Re-

flecting that boom, IMC sales of its agricultural products—phosphate rock, fertilizers and phosphate chemicals—jumped from \$242.3m in the fiscal year 1973 to record sales of \$748.6m in the fiscal year 1975.

The United States industry started up new fertilizer plants worth \$4,000m to meet demand, the pipelines filled and prices came down. IMC explained to shareholders: "The economics of the business do not permit small units or gradual expansion."

Its sales of agricultural products dropped to \$653.6m in fiscal year 1976. There was also more competition in the world market. Florida and Morocco provide about two thirds of world exports, but Morocco, with higher-grade ore and lower transport costs to Europe, increased its rock exports to half of the western European market.

But world demand for fertilizer is predicted to grow about 5 per cent a year. The phosphate industry has settled down to steady growth rather than rapid earnings.

The Jay field discovered by Humble Oil and Louisiana Land and Exploration in north-west Florida was largely responsible for a sixfold rise in Florida oil production from 25 million barrels cumulative through 1971, to more than 152 million barrels by the end of 1975.

The Jay field produced 104 million barrels of oil in 1975. Very high grade limestone is mined in Florida; also

total and casing head gas from the Jay wells provide about one eighth of Florida's gas needs.

Florida's 10 fields produced about 5500m at well-head in 1975; production rose 10 per cent last year, according to Mr W. R. Oglesby of the state Bureau of Geology.

There have been no discoveries since 1974 in spite of increased exploration in the Sunniland Trend of south Florida, the first field discovered in the state. Drilling and completion costs generally have tripled in recent years, and in Florida it is necessary to drill deep.

Oil scouts thick on ground

But oil scouts are still thick on the ground. "Wildcat activity in south Florida is higher than at any period since 1940," Mr Oglesby said. Last year 69 drilling permits were issued compared with 44 in 1975.

"There has been great interest in offshore drilling, but so far it has been a disappointment," he adds. Drillers hit seven dry wells at the Destin Dome site in the Gulf of Mexico south-west of Panama City. Twenty companies are to split the cost to drill a test in the Atlantic Ocean east of Jacksonville.

The industry has cut waste by using more bark, sawdust and shavings, particularly for industrial fuel, particle board, fibre products and mulch.

cement, clays, peat, sand and gravel. Florida sands yield concentrates from which rare earth metals, titanium and zircon are extracted.

Commercial forests, mostly "slash" pines, cover nearly half of Florida; there are five national and state forests in north and central Florida.

The forest industry harvests about 300 million cu ft of products a year, about two thirds of it for pulp. Retail value is nearly \$2,000m annually. Pulp, lumber, wood and gum naval stores, veneer, posts and fuelwood are the primary products and there are hundreds of secondary wood-using industries.

Replacement of cut timber is standard practice, after a study several years ago determined that more pine timber was cut than was grown from 1949 to 1958. The Forestry Division surveys the state's timber cut every two years to calculate the "commodity drain".

Growth has exceeded harvest for several years at about 50 per cent. But foresters say that nearly half of commercial forest land could grow more than double the present volume; more intensive forest management and cropping are needed to keep up with constantly rising demand for wood products.

The industry has cut waste by using more bark, sawdust and shavings, particularly for industrial fuel, particle board, fibre products and mulch.

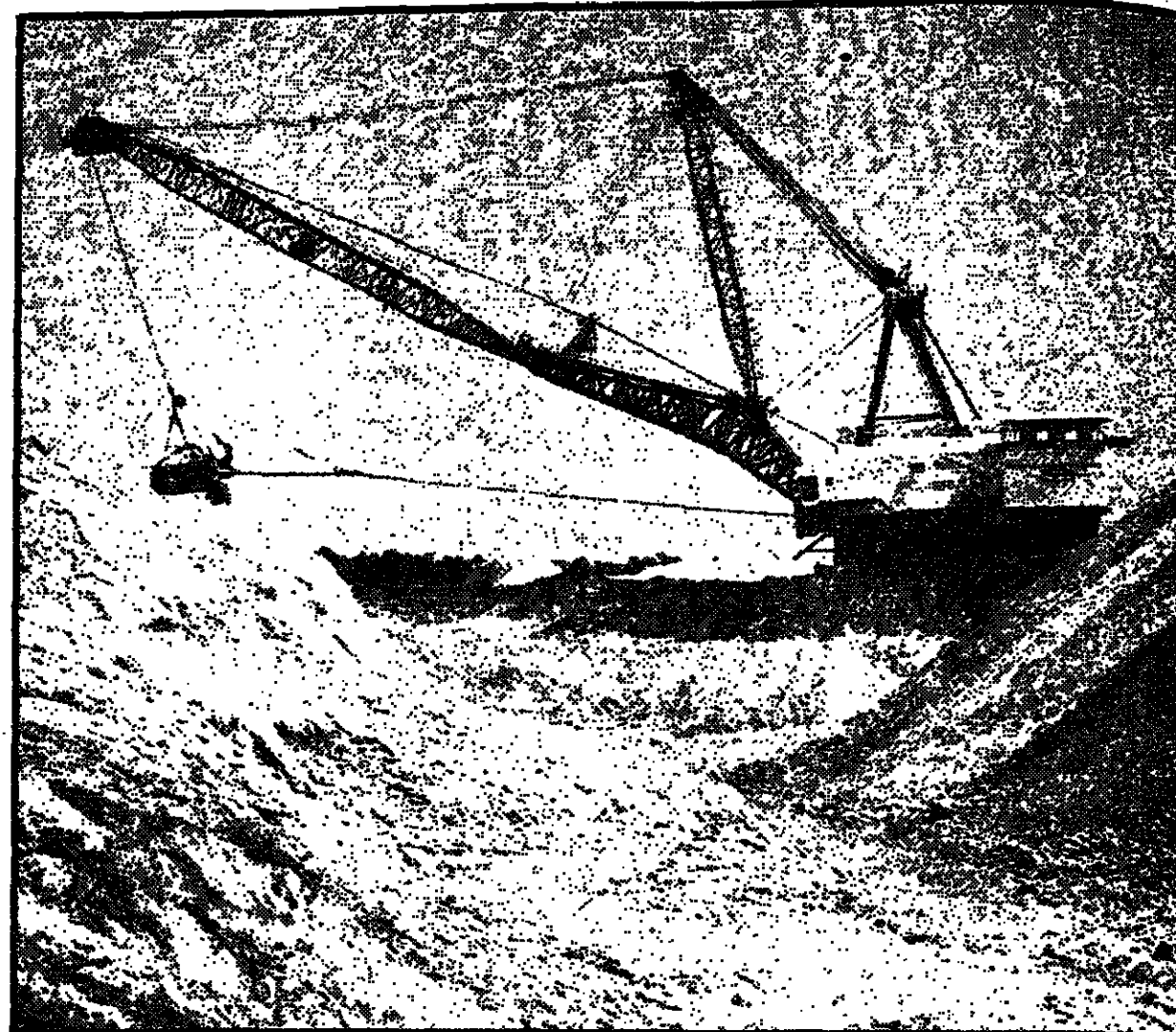
Exploitation of natural resources takes its toll. There has been widespread concern over non-renewable phosphate reserves, strip mining, excess water use to break up ore, clay slime wastes, radioactive emissions from the uranium in phosphate deposits and fluoride and rock dust air pollution from processing.

Beginning in the 1960s, Florida enacted air pollution, land reclamation and other environmental laws. Intensive industry, government and private research is under way to develop more conservative and safer mining and processing methods.

Florida levied a severance tax of 5 per cent of mineral production value, of which half goes back to the industry for reclamation. The phosphate industry has mined more than 90,000 acres. From 1965-75 it reclaimed 30,000 acres of strip mined land at a cost of \$10m and spent \$158.5m on air and water control and conservation.

Reclamation continues at sometimes more than the industry for reclamation. The phosphate industry points out that it has achieved full or more than full compliance with environmental regulations.

But apparently the public is still concerned about the industry's impact on the environment: perhaps it feels that additional laws are required or that industry is not putting environmental practices into effect fast enough.



A dragline strips off earth and rocks to reach phosphate ore in west central Florida.

Only National Airlines flies from London to all of Florida.

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PANAMA CITY

DAYTONA BEACH

ORLANDO
WALT DISNEY
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WEST PALM BEACH

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FT. LAUDERDALE

MIAMI

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Citrus assets frozen

A Florida farmer told me in early January that the citrus harvest would be so big this season that "there will be a problem to get all of it picked, packed, processed and sold at a profit".

That was before a killer frost hit the sunshine state in late January, severely damaging the central Florida crop and nearly wiping out the vegetable crops in south Florida. Governor Reuben Askew declared the state a disaster area, mostly to help migrant pickers who will be out of work for two months.

Florida citrus normally earns about \$2,000m in retail value; it was estimated the frost would affect the orange crop to the extent of about \$90m. Florida is the nation's largest citrus producer and provides 55 per cent of the world's grapefruit and 20 per cent of oranges.

In contrast to the present situation, Florida growers are usually worried about citrus over-supply. They have developed a highly organized marketing, promotion and research programme to keep the consumer demand up with supply. The praises of Florida orange juice are sung by Anita Bryant and Bing Crosby on television advertisements.

Frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) was the development that vaulted Florida citrus into prominence after the last war. "The nation embraced the product like nothing since Henry Ford's Model T," an industry historian said. Publicity pitches like "Breakfast without orange juice is like a day without sunshine" and for caloric counters, "Shape up with grapefruit from Florida"—together with a high-quality product—turned citrus into "Florida gold".

Orange juice sales alone reached a record \$1,000m last year. After putting orange juice on every American table, marketing efforts turned to higher food and operating costs and lower beef prices.

"Strong marketing helps. Florida has excellent trade and transport links with Latin America," Mr Roberto Parajon, a rancher and veterinarian in Cuba before Fidel Castro took over, is a marketing specialist with the state Department of Agriculture.

Canada, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain and Sweden are the leading overseas customers for Florida citrus. Fresh fruit is harder to sell in Europe because of competition from Mediterranean growers who are closer to European markets, but the Japanese demand for grapefruit, in Florida, is

sometimes at \$1 each, is a strong market.

"Florida gold" tends to outshine other crops, but the state is a great store of products, with market gardens scattered throughout the region. About 40 kinds of vegetables are produced commercially; the leaders are tomatoes, beans, squash, potatoes, lima beans, peppers, watermelons and sub-tropical or Cuban vegetables.

Although total acreage has changed little in the past 20 years, production has grown steadily in volume and value. In 1975 the value of Florida vegetables to the farmer was more than \$486m; the retail value was more than \$1,000m. The frost will cut volume and value this year, however.

The fastest-growing agribusiness in Florida is ornamental horticulture—plants that look good in the parlour. Florida leads the nation in ornamental foliage production. In Dade county alone, the business has grown from 800 to 1,000 nurseries in two years, with sales of \$100m last year. Again, the frost will affect output this year.

More growth on less land will require more efficiency, more irrigation, double cropping and a whole new generation of farm technology, it says. Agricultural output will have to come from a 35 per cent rise in production to offset loss of land to urbanization.

The recent freezing weather was nothing new to Florida—there was a bad freeze in 1962 and a ruin freeze in the 1890s nearly decimated the infant citrus industry. But cold weather is less likely in Florida than elsewhere in the United States. The annual average temperature is a mild 70°F.

As the southernmost state, the Florida peninsula dabbles its big toe into the South Atlantic where the warm Gulf Stream and easterly breezes keep it warm in winter. Sea breezes and abundant rain moderate summer temperatures.

Florida is flat, which allows the land to soak up rainfall and replenish the extensive underground aquifer. Average rainfall is 53in a year—ensuring that Florida springs and reservoirs can supply about 10 times more water than the daily consumption of water.

Florida can grow fresh food when other states are in the grip of winter. Mr Wade Meredith, manager of the State Farmers' Market near Homestead in the southern vegetable bowl, says: "The land down here is not worth a damn. It's coral rock and it takes a lot of fertilizer. But we can plant tomatoes every 20 days from August to May or June. Climate makes the crops here."

S.A.

Good trade in cattle

Cowboy boots and stetsons are almost as predominant in central Florida as on the Texas plains. The state has risen to sixteenth nationally in cattle production, with beef and small grains—sugar cane is the most valuable. In recent years Florida accounted for about 15 per cent of American sugar supplies, after Cuba cut sugar exports to the United States.

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S.A.

Learning from the past

continued from page 1

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The Cubans are taking over Miami and south Florida generally, in one of the more extraordinary episodes of American migration. Relations between Cubans, who are becoming American citizens in increasing number, and the natives have not always been cordial and have never been very warm. However, Lie chairman of the Democratic Party in Florida is a Cuban (he went where at the Bay of Pigs in 1961 and spent a year in a Cuban prison afterwards), and so is the Mayor of Miami.

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National Airlines "Take me, I'm yours."





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SCOTTISH LABOUR BAFFLED

The plight of the Labour Party in Scotland has become one of the critical factors in British politics. It has been intensified by the devolution deadlock at Westminster, but it has not been caused by it. Indeed, the immediate effects of that failure have not been dramatic. There has not been the explosion of wrath in Scotland that had been feared. It does not hold pride of place in the long list of Scottish grievances. Labour MPs and candidates do not as yet find themselves besieged with complaints at the perfidy of Parliament. There has been something of a middle-class reaction against the plan for a Scottish assembly, and a good many others are bored by the whole question. But the Government's inability to deliver its commitment is damaging to the party for a number of reasons.

In the first place, its evident confusion on devolution magnifies the impression of a general malaise. Both the confusion and the malaise were obvious at the party conference which ended yesterday in Perth. The Labour Party in Scotland has never been wholehearted in its commitment to devolution. There have been some genuine enthusiasts in its ranks, a large number who have been convinced of the political necessity, and a minority of consistent opponents. The agreement that was reached in Troon a year ago was very much a political compromise. That compromise still stands. Attachment to the principle of devolution was proclaimed and accepted at Perth. But there was neither the passion of conviction nor much idea how to bring it about.

HOW MANY DOCTORS FOR THE EIGHTIES?

For a dozen years it has been a truism of medical politics that Britain suffers from a shortage of doctors. Policies adopted in the mid 1960s set out to increase the output of medical schools from about 2,500 to 4,000 by 1980. The need was scarcely disputed until last summer, when the junior hospital doctors, who would suffer soonest from a glut, began to express alarm. At last week's special assembly of the British Medical Association the fear of over-production was one of the chief items of concern. The Royal Commission on Manpower reported in 1965, just as the birthrate stopped rising and began to fall, with obvious consequences for the level of future need. In 1975, restraints on public spending brought the expansion of the health services almost to a standstill. Fewer patients than expected, and fewer resources to treat them with, strongly imply less work than expected for doctors.

There is a sense in which it would be scarcely possible to produce too many doctors. Finance apart, the potential demand for their services is virtually limitless in Britain, let alone beyond. The skill is one which would enrich a candidate's qualifications for many other kinds of work, even if too few places exist in medicine itself. But it costs the state £28,000 to train a doctor, a public thrift implies that output should be measured by the prospective needs of the health services. As for the profession, it does not wish to see its stock-in-trade devalued, nor its members forced into other kinds of work.

Yet there are still many parts of the country where consultants complain that it is almost impos-

The one new policy on devolution adopted by the conference is an absurdity. The delegates voted for a referendum at the earliest opportunity to enable the people of Scotland to choose between devolution, separation and the status quo. Leaving aside the obvious dangers of a three-way choice—how is the result to be interpreted? by the first-past-the-post system?—and of having a referendum on independence before there is any need to do so, there is the strong objection to putting such an imprecise option as devolution before the electorate. The question that would in effect be put to the Scottish voter at this time is: do you want the Government's Bill, for which there is no majority in the House of Commons and which cannot be placed on the statute book without radical amendment, the nature of which cannot yet be foreseen? How would Parliament be expected to respond to such a referendum? Would it be accused of breaking faith with the people if it made the necessary substantial amendments to the Bill before passing it? To present such an option to the Scottish electorate would risk either a very unexpected answer, or bringing the democratic process into disrepute, or both.

To propose such a stratagem is the mark of a party that is baffled and bewildered. But it is not only devolution that baffles and bewilders the Labour Party in Scotland. There was more anxiety in Perth over the state of the economy, the lack of jobs and the cuts in public spending. Most of the people there did not enter politics in order to support

the kind of policies now being pursued by Labour Ministers. In being more concerned about economic and social problems than about an assembly the party is faithfully reflecting Scottish opinion, and some Labour strategists draw the comforting conclusion that the devolution muddle will not therefore be of much political consequence. Just get the Scottish economy right and all will be well. The trouble with that analysis is that the Scottish economy cannot be trusted to respond to a sufficiently sensitive eye to the date of the next election, and if economic conditions are not vastly improved it will be easy to encourage the belief that if only there were an assembly Scotland would be able to deal with these problems for itself. Economic and devolution discontents could then feed upon each other.

That is a gloomy prospect for a party whose morale is low anyway. There was no vitality in the party on parade at Perth. In that too the conference was faithfully reflecting conditions in the constituencies. Labour's organization is crumbling. Its appeal rests upon habit, its strength upon the continued loyalty of the established trade union movement. That may be enough to save it, if not from the humiliation expected at the Scottish district elections in May, at any rate from too severe a fate in the general election. But it could hardly be more vulnerable. The radical tradition in west central Scotland is the politics of people looking for a sign of hope to relieve their dreary living conditions. The Labour Party in Scotland is not much of a symbol of hope today.

sible to find adequately qualified candidates for hospital posts. In general practice the position is probably worse. The rate of medical emigration is still a matter of concern, and the service is heavily dependent on doctors from abroad who may well not be available in such numbers in future. The Willink report of 1957, which proposed a cut in the number of medical students on the strength of a temporary dip in the birthrate and professional fears that doctors would become too penny, is a warning of the miscalculations that can occur in this branch of prophecy. The Royal Commission which set that error right commented: "The further ahead one attempts to look, the more arbitrary and unrealistic is any attempt to estimate the numbers of doctors needed in any particular branch of the service." It takes seven years to train a doctor, so that decisions taken today relate to 1984 and after.

Just now the prospects are particularly confusing. The birthrate has been falling for twelve years, but the demographers continue to predict a sharp increase in the next few years. The prospects for spending on health may be transformed by North Sea oil revenues. The actual growth in student numbers has already fallen behind what has been planned. New arrangements with the EEC will increase the movement of doctors between Britain and countries where medical men have the liveliest fears of over-manning. The rising number of women doctors (who may or may not give up practice for some years to look after their families) and new pension arrangements

(which may affect the average retiring age) compound the uncertainties.

The BMA is right to draw attention to the dangers of over-production. It takes time to shift a political cliché, and the belief that a growth in numbers can only be good deserves re-examination. It is important to avoid the sudden reversal that has been inflicted on the teaching profession, partly through a political timidity about acting on the auguries until too late. The BMA urges the present Royal Commission on the NHS to run out an emergency report, and recommends that a special standing body should keep the question under annual review. That may be making too much of a problem, which, except at moments of exceptional uncertainty like the present, does not change sharply from year to year. But the need for a close watch in the next two or three years is plain enough.

In the meantime, one important cause of the junior doctors' fears about their career prospects needs to be tackled in quite a different way: the fact that doctors with years of experience are kept "in training" for a number of secure consultant posts too small to accommodate them all keeps them in a state of limbo. The BMA assembly should again last week that a sub-consultant grade, whatever its merits as a solution to the problem, is simply not acceptable to the profession. The remedy must therefore be to implement the policy agreed in 1969 for increasing the relative number of consultant posts. So far since then the ratio has actually worsened.

Discoveries in Syria

From Professor Abraham Malamat and Professor Ullendorff, FBA
Sir, The recent epigraphic discoveries by an Italian expedition, at Tell Mardikh-Bla (northern Syria) clearly promise to be of the utmost importance for ancient Near Eastern studies in general and for the linguistic and historical research of the area in particular. These are, however, some worrying aspects to which we feel attention ought to be drawn. The entire episode has a distinct *déjà vu* quality about it: there were the pan-Babylonian phase about the turn of the century, the Ugarit-Ras Shamra discoveries of 1928 or the Dead Sea scrolls in the immediate postwar period. In all these and similar cases the publicity, and many of the instantaneous deductions of the less well-informed, did not assist a dispassionate scrutiny of the documentary material.

The reason why such widespread public attention has been attracted to these discoveries is not unconnected with the involvement of the Bible in these finds and the consequent reaction of those who either wish to detract from the uniqueness of the biblical canon or, on the other hand, are bent on discovering "proof" of the accuracy of the biblical accounts.

The latest discoveries, those at Ebla (dating roughly to the mid-third millennium BC), have, unlike their predecessors, been made in the full glare of the television age. In addition there has also been much press speculation of very uneven value.

The object of this letter is to urge scholars and the media alike to allow the evidence to be published, to be sifted, and to be scrutinized before entrenched positions are taken and inadequately supported conclusions are reached.

Police and a right to strike

From Dr Robert Reiner

Sir, Your editorial on "Unrest in the Police Force" (March 2, 1977) argues that the police ought not to be permitted the rights of organization or strike action. This prohibition is said to be justified because in the absence of the police, lawlessness and anarchy would dominate. In return for relinquishing their rights, the police are to be treated as a "special case" with the highest priority in claims for better pay and conditions.

How are the police to be guaranteed these rewards? Independent trade unionism is the normal means by which workers attempt to ensure that they have some power to protect their interests. The present discontent over police pay hints at the importance of this. When I conducted research on police attitudes to unionism in 1973, I found that only 20 per cent of uniformed constables supported the right to strike, though about half favoured full union status in other respects. The strike weapon was generally eschewed because of a notion of public responsibility, together with the belief that the crucial social role of the police guaranteed them favourable treatment (see my article "Red in Blue" *New Society*, October 7, 1976). The high proportions supporting the right to strike in recent polls suggest a growing realization that in the absence of such powers the police are in the law of the authorities. Without union organization they cannot even comment in advance on the proposed "voluntary" pay policy which they are forced to accede to!

You argue that regardless of the interests of policemen, the "proper" function of the police is to maintain law and order, and that they forgo the right to strike. Experience of police strikes in the past, here and abroad, suggests that when disorder ensues, this is usually because the authorities have failed to make adequate alternative policing arrangements. Many police strikes have not been attended by an outbreak of lawlessness. Furthermore, even the few which were attended by rioting or looting fall far short of the "anarchy" or "chaos" situation you envisage. The assumption underlying your argument, that the police are the only barrier between civilization and a complete breakdown of social order, is altogether too simplistic and alarmist. In any case, the right to strike is a far cry from an actual strike. Given their sense of social responsibility, policemen would have to be in such a low state of morale to actually envisage strike action that the effectiveness of their work would anyway be highly questionable.

Finally, you argue correctly that police discretion is not only over but also under a more fundamental sense of the lack of support they receive from society. In the United States such a feeling of frustration has inclined police associations in the past decade to being more increasingly involved in militant political activity of an extreme right wing character. The unionization of the police force, as Scandinavian and West German experience suggests, can be a factor counteracting this sort of tendency for policemen to be pushed towards the radical right. The essence of the British police tradition is the recognition of the policeman as an ordinary citizen, carrying out a specialized task, but not separated from the rest of the community. I would suggest this implies that they should not be deprived of the same rights of free association and independent action as other citizens. Responsibility cannot be ensured by legislation and externally imposed discipline.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT REINER,
Lecturer in Sociology,
University of Bristol,
12 Woodland Road,
Bristol,
March 2.

University fees

From the Principal of King's College London

Sir, It would be a pity if the antics of some students at the London School of Economics and elsewhere were to have the usual effect of so forfeiting public sympathy as to obscure the serious hardship which these students already in college and not receiving a grant will face next year.

There is room for different opinions about the level at which tuition fees for higher education should be pitched, and about whether overseas students should mostly be bursars. But there is a case for charging no tuition fees at all; there are arguments in favour of the level of fees now proposed by the Government for next year; and there are other variations which are perfectly acceptable. But there is surely no case at all for increasing the fees of UK students who are paying for themselves and who have already embarked on their course by between 175 per cent and 320 per cent overnight.

In this college alone, I expect to have about 200 undergraduates next year who are paying their own fees and who embarked on a three-year course in either 1975 when the tuition fees were in the region of £140 a year or 1976 when they were about £180. They now find that in order to complete the course they have to pay £500 a year for the last one or two years of it. UK self-financing postgraduates are even more hard hit, their fees having gone up to £750.

Any commercial institution which tried to do anything like this with its prices would be subjected to all the rigours of the machinery which the Government has created to protect the consumer. Nor would there be any shortage of volunteers in Parliament to say just what they thought of such behaviour. We all know that Governments do not recognize themselves as being subject to the same standards, either legal or moral, as they impose on others. But surely in this case even the Government has gone beyond any acceptable standard of conduct.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WAY, Principal,
King's College London,
Strand, WC2.

Army violence in Ulster

From Mr N. D. Ross

Sir, Last week the Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland criticized the BBC for publishing allegations of brutality about the RUC. Roy Mason has been no less unequivocal in his reactions to revelations of this sort. If I believed that these two men, together with the security forces, were involved in some calculated conspiracy (the sort alleged today by *The Sunday Times*) I would not worry so much. But I fear they are being deceived.

Those of us who have worked regularly as journalists in Northern Ireland know that civilians are regularly maltreated by some members of the security forces. We rarely say so, and when we do we are denounced as dupes of IRA propaganda.

Most soldiers in Northern Ireland act with exemplary diligence and tolerance given the circumstances in which they operate. I could not even begin to do their job so courageously. But I believe that those who misbehave imperil a government strategy that would be difficult enough if all our troops were angels. And I believe that in failing to perceive what is happening the British authorities are failing to undertake a most important factor in the Ulster tragedy.

What often happens is this. In some regiments individual soldiers or individual platoons will use unnecessary force during screening

operations (arresting and carrying people off more or less at random to check whether or not they are on the Wanted List). In case of complaint (or in case of investigation by the SIB or RUC) the NCOs will cover up for their men, and the junior officers for their NCOs. Middle-rank and senior officers (let alone Government and Opposition spokesmen) will never know what is going on, and because of their ignorance they will be all the more indignant about any allegations of army brutality. One senior officer once told me that a young man who had needed hospital treatment after screening had been "hit by a swinging door", and I think he sincerely believed it.

I fear that he was simply misinformed. I do not believe that Messrs Neave and Mason are involved in a "cover up" but that they too are simply misinformed. Press "censorship" will not cure that. Indeed it will not cure anything. Allegations about maltreatment are already common knowledge in the communities so affected by them. It is only the relatively innocent Ulster middle classes and the bulk of the public on the British mainland who are kept in ignorance when we journalists are silent. They, and the politicians.

Yours sincerely,
NICK ROSS,
38 Willes Road, NW3.
March 13.

Freedom in science

From Professor M. R. Pollock, FRS

Sir, I am sure that most scientists will be grateful to Dr Stoker (March 3) for underlining, as Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society, the support which it provides for our colleagues suffering from infringement of internationally recognized human rights. It is also helpful to be reminded of the stand on this issue taken by Lord Todd last November. I believe this may be the first time—certainly in recent years—that the President of the Royal Society has publicly emphasized this particular problem which, in the opinion of many of us, has become more evident during the past 20 or 30 years.

Those of us who contributed directly to the preparation of the report on scientific freedom referred to, may thus legitimately feel that their views have powerful support at a very appropriate moment.

There is, however, one matter (with international ramifications or from communications with colleagues abroad) where we accept the argument that the fact that a person is a scientist neither entitles him to preferential treatment in a country where civil rights are systematically abused nor imposes on the Royal Society a duty to intervene on his behalf.

But what Dr Stoker's letter does not consider is the situation of people whose status as scientists is itself used by a government to deny them rights that are more readily granted to others. The Government of the USSR, for instance, has refused to give scientists permission to emigrate on the grounds that they have had access to "secret information" even though their work may have been published openly and though any confidential material they may be acquainted with is long out of date.

Where discrimination is based upon a person's being a scientist, we believe that it would be proper for the Royal Society to make vigorous and public protest. Dr Stoker has shown how the Royal Society has been concerned with freedom of scientific enquiry, and we hope that it will also be willing to help scientists whose governments ill-treat them because of their professional standing.

Yours faithfully,
M. G. OGSTON,
A. D. YUDKIN,
Department of Biochemistry,
University of Oxford,
South Parks Road,
Oxford,
March 8.

Seal culling

From the Chairman of the Council, British Fur Trade Association

Sir, The photograph in your edition of February 28 captioned "Canada's Shame" is a total distortion of scientifically established data of seal hunting.

Realizing that conservation is an emotive issue, I believe that you would wish to know the facts. The type of seals being culled, far from being in danger of extinction, are increasing in numbers alarmingly, particularly where there is no commercial harvesting. For example, in the National Trust Pumas Islands, overcrowding, malnutrition and disease resulted in 21 per cent of cubs dying before entering the sea. A scientific survey by the Natural Environment Research Council commissioned a cull of 3,000 animals and regular culling now continues to ensure a healthy population. With the object of preserving an ecological balance in respect to both the size of the seal herds and the supply of fish, a quota of seals to be taken is fixed annually

by the International Commission on North Atlantic Fisheries. Seals consume millions of tons of codfish and from March 1976 the Canadian government has paid a bounty on seals culled.

As regards the culling by clubbing, investigation into alternative methods by the American and Canadian governments' veterinary experts has satisfied them that a blow from a club is the most humane method of killing as it causes instantaneous death. Sealing ships carry a Government Inspector and if the culling regulations are not adhered to the skipper is subject to a fine or imprisonment, and the vessel with catch may be confiscated.

If the commercial seal hunts were discontinued, the Canadian government would be compelled in any case to control the herds in order to protect the Newfoundland fishing industry.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON REISS,
Chairman of the Council,
British Fur Trade Association,
68 Upper Thames Street, EC4,
March 8.

staterooms and throne" as well as the world-famous monasteries and the temples, they serve a dual purpose—

Firstly, to endeavour to give the false impression to the few carefully selected visitors, like the Greene family that, contrary to the personal experiences of the thousands of Tibetans who are now living in exile, the Chinese authorities still let the Tibetans continue in their religious and cultural practices.

Second and most importantly, they are preserved as major propaganda materials by implementing them as concrete proofs to support the constant accusations made by the Chinese of our own way of life which we led in the past and considered by them a "feudal system".

I sincerely hope that you will let the readers have the opportunity to see the other side of the coin by publishing this letter.

Yours faithfully,
LOBSANG N. AYE,
135 Daves Road, SW6.

The future of Mentmore

From Lord Eccles

Sir, I could not take part in the debate on Mentmore Towers but I see from the Official Report and the correspondence in your columns that too much is expected of the Land Fund. This Fund is only a book entry. When it is debited with the cost of a purchase only then the cost has to be found out from the public purse. This means, when Mr Eccles is running a huge deficit, adding to the Borrowing Requirement. Comparison becomes inevitable between a grant to Mentmore Towers and other claims on the Exchequer.

Looking only at the claims in the field of the arts how high is the priority of Mentmore Towers? The arts are very hard hit by inflation. Poverty and unemployment are growing among actors, musicians, painters and writers. The Victoria and Albert has been forced to close its Circulation Department and there is talk of the museum shutting one day a week. The difficulties in the regions are worse, especially among public libraries. So, if there were more public money available, where should it go?

In my view the Chancellor of the Exchequer should resist the conservation lobby for Mentmore until he can provide enough money for the buildings, collections and living arts for which he is directly or indirectly responsible.

The landlord stands condemned who neglects the property he already owns in order to buy more acres. Poverty and unemployment are growing among actors, musicians, painters and writers. The Victoria and Albert has been forced to close its Circulation Department and there is talk of the museum shutting one day a week. The difficulties in the regions are worse, especially among public libraries. So, if there were more public money available, where should it go?

But if one way or another the Government cannot make any more money available for the arts then they should concentrate upon maintaining the highest standards among those whom they subsidize already. I am, yours truly,
ECCLES,
House of Lords,
March 13.

I liberals and coalition

From Mr Jeremy Thorpe, MP for Devon North (Liberal)

Sir, Mr George Clark in an otherwise admirable article (March 12) refers to Mr Jeremy Thorpe being "discarded" by the party from collaborating with the Conservatives in 1974.

In fact no discussion was required, nor did any take place. I advised my colleagues to reject Mr Heath's offer for the reasons set out both in my letter to him and in this statement which has since been issued.

The advice I gave was that which was unanimously accepted by the parliamentary party.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant.

JEREMY THORPE,
House of Commons.

Public spending

From the Chief Executive, Somerset County Council

Sir, There is at least one component of the public sector in Mr Dakers's home area (Letters, March 2) partly funded by government where it is not to spend but to conserve the financial year is not observed nor necessary. For many years Somerset County Council has refused to allow an accounting straitjacket of dubious principle to spur our administrators, head-teachers, engineers, architects or other managers to spend hastily and unwisely so as not to lose financial provision. Practically all our financial allocations can be carried forward to the next year. A right given automatically to schools for books and equipment, to architects for building maintenance and to other managers whenever it can be shown that better value and management will result from carrying forward an estimate provision.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. WHITTAKER,
Chief Executive,
Somerset County Council,
County Hall,
Taunton, Somerset.

'The Times' reappears

From The Rev P. J. Collingwood

Sir, To open *The Times* after six days of lamentable silence and find a continuation of the correspondence on "What Keats drank" reminds me of the story of the Cambridge professor who, during a series of lectures to join the army and having stopped at a demobilisation several years later by carrying on from the comma, prefaced by the remark "As I was saying..." Your readers may care to celebrate the welcome re-appearance of *The Times* by sending other instances of enforced interruption later turned to anecdotal advantage.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. COLLINGWOOD,
Sunshine,
New Street,
Torrington, Devon.
March 11.

From Mrs Pamela Lewis

Sir, To paraphrase Louis Alcott—"Breakfast isn't breakfast without *The Times* propped up against a milk bottle", grumbled... Yours truly,
PAMELA L. LEWIS,
17 Langdon Avenue,
Wheatstone, N20.

From Mrs James Fleming
Sir, Delighted as I was to receive my *Times* again this morning, I was rather surprised at the speed of re-publication following the television news report at lunch time on Thursday.

However, on turning to page 20 it was made clear. It was obviously the intervention of Sir Harold Wilson who wished his birthday to be listed on schedule. Yours faithfully,
J. A. FLEMING,
3 Bonabel Road,
St Leonards-on-Sea
Sussex.
March 11

John Evelyn's library

From the Editor of The Book Collector

Sir, I should like to express the strongest support for the campaign to save John Evelyn's library launched by Book 1, Friends of the National Libraries. I know that librarians, historians, literary scholars, and many others all over the country share the hope that the books will not be dispersed.

There are two points in particular that deserve notice:

1. Evelyn was the first English authority on the scientific formation of libraries. His own library therefore has a special value as a collection, which would be lost if it were broken up.

2. Dispersal will cause one specific tragedy. Evelyn translated the complete text of the Latin poet Lucretius; he published the first book but not books 2-6. The manuscripts of the latter, with Evelyn's own annotated copy of the printed version of Book 1, have remained together ever since. Now Book 1 is to be sold as a printed book, while Books 2-6 will stay unsold with the other manuscripts, including the Diary.

Some way to prevent this disaster must be found. In intellectual terms it is as great a blow to the national heritage as to sell off Stonehenge, megalith by megalith. Yours,
NICOLAS BARKER,
The Book Collector,
22 Clarendon Road, W.11.
March 3.

Alleviating depression

From Mrs Beth Miller

Sir, I feel I cannot let Dr Sargent's article on drugs and depression (March 3) pass without comment, as it represents an attitude which is so one-sided in its denial of psychotherapy and analysis in the treatment of psychiatric conditions, in this case specifically depression.

Rattered babies

From Dr P. J. Faulkner-Corbett

Sir, As a general practitioner for over 30 years and a magistrate for over 12 years, I cannot emphasize too strongly the dangers of returning a battered baby to the home where the battering took place. The only exception that could be made is when the proud batterer has left the home permanently.

I would ask all Crown Court judges and magistrates, who hear these difficult cases, to withstand the blandishments of counsel and solicitors and keep these unfortunate children in care. Yours faithfully,
PETER J. FAWKNER-CORBETT,
Meadowlands,
Havant,
Hampshire.
March 6.

A Times Profile

Michael Foot

How the left found its conscience

When *Tribune* reached its fortieth birthday a few weeks ago, James Callaghan asked Richard Clements, the editor, and the rest of the staff to Number 10. They were presented with a birthday cake, and as Clements dutifully raised the knife, a voice was heard from the back of the throng: "Another bloody cut!" said Michael Foot.

It was a typical note of irony. Michael Foot, deputy leader of the Labour Party, second man in the Government and former editor of *Tribune*, has far too much literary sensibility to forget the paradoxes in his situation.

There are flickers of the same tone in his public appearances and on the floor of the House of Commons. The left-wing rebel who acquiesces in Cabinet decisions to beg money from the IMF is also the man of principle now condemned to defend a kind of gerrymandering. Asked if the Government does not keep too many MPs in Scotland for purely party reasons, he rolls his eyes and says: "How can you think such a thing?"

He is also the back-bencher par excellence, now marked with the failure to force through a devolution Bill guillotine in Parliament that would have fallen on back-benchers' necks. Mrs Thatcher called it "shameful" and "discreditable". Michael Foot, knowing that he and other opponents of the EEC were similarly guillotined by the Tories, could only lean affably across the dispatch boxes, and say, "I detect a note of criticism..."

Irony, perseverance, sometimes silence. With these devices, he carries on, watched with disappointment by some of his old friends on the left

and by others with the sort of admiration St Sebastian probably had from the bystanders as the arrows went in.

It is, at 63, the most extraordinary climax to his career. One of his Cabinet colleagues says: "On any normal view of indispensability, he is the most important man in the Government." One of his old leftist friends puts it more mournfully: "He's been driven back step by step. The only strength he has left now is the strength of Samson; to pull everything crashing down if he chooses."

Certainly, the paradoxes press in. A man of notoriously sweet nature in private, he once recently lost his temper and started shouting at dinner because he was being persistently attacked for supporting a right wing government.

He still keeps up a rumpled and unaffected style of dress. At the state opening of Parliament, while colleagues like Fred (now Lord) Peart toggled up in the most outlandish way, he, Lord President of the Council, wore a lounge suit. When, for the first time, he was invited to a Downing Street dinner with the Queen, on Harold Wilson's retirement, he decided to wear a dinner suit. He had to be dissuaded from doing this one he had worn more than 40 years earlier, at Oxford.

Not only does the Prime Minister treat him carefully—as befits a man who came a very impressive second in the leader's election—but he also arouses in him much genuine goodwill. Michael Foot, who had the whip withdrawn himself in the days of much fiercer Labour battles than those today, is unlikely to forget how Callaghan voted in 1955 to withdraw the whip from his hero, Bevan. But he now praises his sincerity and capacity.

Obviously, Michael Foot is intriguing because of the balance of political forces he represents: his presence at the centre of a weak Labour administration ties in the trade unions and the radical left at Westminster to a grumbling right-wing still dominant in Cabinet. So far, the show has stayed on the road.

But he also demonstrates the influence of personality on politics. There is no one quite like him in the party, and probably no one else's mixture of skills, emotions and particular weaknesses could have so set the constellation in the sky of the present Labour Government.

He had a childhood of books and politics, middle-class, West Country and Liberal. There were seven children, and three of his brothers also became public figures. Somehow, in

the family rough and tumble, he grew up tense and shy. He still is shy, yet transformed when speaking in public. It is difficult to avoid the impression that his famous rhetoric provides not only a means of expression, but a welcome step away from other people. For all his fortissimo torrents, those close to him point to an underlying emotional reserve. The eczema and asthma that once plagued him have gone; he still drums his fingers and looks at his watch.

He acquired his socialism later, working in Liverpool. Although he has been perhaps unfairly attacked in the past for "Hampstead socialism", he was certainly not protestant in origin (nor, indeed, ever Marxist in thinking). Leighton Park school at Reading was, as A. J. P. Taylor said later, "the snob Quaker public school", and Wedham College, Oxford, where the young Michael Foot became President of the Union, found him still a Liberal.

He does live in Hampstead now, with his wife Jill, whom he met in 1943. Their circle of friends does include writers and journalists, rather than exclusively trade unionists. He did spend time drinking champagne with his friend and working-class hero Nye Bevan in the 1950s, but he has been against both of them by their critics for opposite reasons. He had bourgeois tastes for composers such as Shostakovich and Rossini.

But he has shown very little interest in money-making, throughout a career of pamphleteering, leader-writing, demonstrating, speech-making and authorship.

Where the middle-classness shows, according to some of his warmest supporters, is in his sentimentalism, about the working-class, about trade union leaders, and about the Scots and the Welsh. "Michael romanticizes the Welsh," he thinks they're strong, dignified, self-educated and "luminous", one says. He can't see the unattractive side of Welshmen for the "Organ Morgan" bit. Nye had a clearer idea about the Welsh. He said: "They're good... they're not that good..."

There is, in fact, a distinct strain of hero-worship or at least warm enthusiasm, in Michael Foot's make-up. He was very impressed at Oxford when he heard Bertrand Russell lecture on the necessity for riding one's mid of envy, and for all his left-wing socialism, he makes few personal enemies and wins strong loyalty.

One of his most curious intimacies was with Lord Beaver-



brook, who delighted in collecting left-wingers. Foot, in his twenties, wrote leaders for the *Evening Standard* and edited it during the war.

When the war ended, and party politics got back to normal, he resigned from the *Standard*, explaining he planned to wage perpetual war against the policies of the *Express* group, though not, he emphasized, its proprietor. He became an MP for Devonport. Later, Beaverbrook gave Foot £3,000 to bail out *Tribune*, which he was running at the time, though not in a very businesslike way.

Although the friendship had cooled in the early days of the Labour Government, it resumed after this incident, and Foot took a cottage on Beaverbrook's estate at Cherkley.

Foot had berated the newspaper magnate enthusiastically in Parliament. He told the 1947 Royal Commission on the Press, after a speech characterizing megalomania as an occupational disease of the press proprietors, of the exact way in which he had to operate a "blacklist" on the *Standard*. People like Paul Robeson were blacklisted for political reasons, he said, and there was a constant stream of editorial directives from the proprietor.

Almost 30 years later, his experiences surfaced again, in

a long controversy with some Fleet Street editors. As Secretary of State for Employment, busy dismantling the Tory Industrial Relations Act, he gave an unsympathetic ear to complaints that, by not outlawing union closed shops in newspapers, he was threatening the freedom of the press. His sarcasm, as an ex-editor, was directed at the idea that editors had been free from interference in the past.

His great idol, of course, was Bevan. He and Jill were the closest of friends with Bevan and Jennie Lee: he admired his brio, his Welshness, his poetic oratory, his intelligence and his political ideas. Foot had quickly found himself out on the Labour party's radical limb after the war, fighting German rearmament and then nuclear weapons: there was a bitter quarrel when Foot, the Bevanite and nuclear disarmament, had to stomach Bevan's notorious "naked into the conference chamber" speech of 1957, in which he rejected unilateralism.

Bevan was more savage than Foot has ever been as a politician. Nor would Foot claim anything approaching Bevan's oratory. But some people would detect a faint parallel between the statesmanlike mantle Bevan put on in 1957, and the sacrifice of his freedom Foot made

in 1974 when he went into the government. The argument is that, just as Sam Watson, the miners' leader, persuaded Bevan then that world peace depended on him, so Jack Jones persuaded Michael Foot that a return of industrial peace after the Heath trauma (and the Wilson In Place of Strife trauma before that) depended on Foot himself.

Michael Foot has a crucial side as a literary man. His two-volume biography of Bevan, written over 12 years with a three-year gap after a bad car accident when he was unable to work, is widely praised for its grasp and plain, pure, prose style. It is attacked for painting Bevan too white and for being unfair to Gaitskell.

It is fairly easy to draw a picture of Michael Foot as an almost totally eighteenth-century character—a stylist, rationalist, polemicist, and parliamentarian. A bibliophile like his father, he has an unrivalled collection of Hazlitt, and what he admires about him is revealing. Hazlitt was a left-wing partisan, not afraid of partisanship, and full of distaste for "moderates" and those who betrayed his own side. But he is also fascinated by Stendhal and Heine: half-romantic, half-realist, he says of them.

Foot's performance as an orator is famous: he speaks without notes, which means that only his parliamentary utterances tend to be preserved.

Nor do his crescendos, the whirling arms and the flailing white hair, become obvious in the study. But, going back through *Hansard*, it is possible to see something of what sent MPs flooding out of the tea-rooms whenever the Commons annunciator showed he was speaking.

He often starts sweetly, in the word he uses of Bevan's openings. The vituperations are sometimes vitriolic, sometimes teasing. Attracting in 1963, what he called a "Heath Robinson" plan (of his own front bench, naturally enough) for House of Lords reform, he conjured up a compelling picture of national crises being settled by self-styled cross-benchers in the Lords. And he poured scorn on the idea of Commons party whips selecting peers: "Think of it! A second chamber selected by the whips. A seraglio of eunuchs."

Mr Callaghan, then Home Secretary, and answering the Lords reform debate for the Government, said that Michael Foot, though skilful, "over-drew the picture a little". But Foot, in an alliance with that other great House of Commons man, Enoch Powell, won in the

end. They talked the Bill into the ground, in the way that paradoxically, again, House of Commons men have now succeeded in doing with Michael Foot's own, inherited, devolution Bill.

Foot's passion for parliament is called reactionary by some. He is completely hostile to the efforts of Commons reformers to move MPs out of the debating chamber into specialist committees. He calls them "sewing parties". He does not see the place as a piece of machinery in that fashion, but as a great vehicle for clash and argument and ruse.

The conscience of the left, as Michael Foot became, reached power of a real kind late in his career. On the face of it, it was a strange change. He of Michael Foot as an almost totally eighteenth-century character—a stylist, rationalist, polemicist, and parliamentarian. A bibliophile like his father, he has an unrivalled collection of Hazlitt, and what he admires about him is revealing. Hazlitt was a left-wing partisan, not afraid of partisanship, and full of distaste for "moderates" and those who betrayed his own side. But he is also fascinated by Stendhal and Heine: half-romantic, half-realist, he says of them.

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When the administration fell, Foot stood for the Shadow Cabinet, and made an immediate impression there. One of his colleagues recalls: "I was really amazed at him. He was really the outstanding person in the Shadow Cabinet. He had a kind of general wisdom, and a bigness of approach as well as a remarkable tactical sense of how and when to play issues. He made so many of my old colleagues in the Cabinet look two-dimensional."

With the return to power, he went to *Employment*. The whole rapport with the unions of the social contract was undoubtedly his doing. Another of his friends says: "It was wonderful to see him or be in the department. There was such obvious affection and trust between him and the union leaders. I remember wishing the rest of the government was like same."

If his interest in detail was never great, his relation with

departmental civil servants was good. They found him good company, and he did not need or want to change any of them. In Cabinet, he set about a deliberate style of bridge-building and intense argument. His colleagues noted that while some left-wingers spoke pretty obviously for the record, Foot sought to convince.

But he went into the government knowing what compromises he implied. He told friends he knew one had to compromise in Cabinet, and he said that, if he had realized the limitations and constraints of power, he would have written his second volume of Bevan's biography, set after the war, rather differently.

He could probably have stayed at *Employment* if he had wished. Few of his colleagues think it was a muffled plea of devotion. Leader of the House seemed a genuinely suitable job for such a parliamentarian, and he does actually believe in the idea of home rule. Typically, he set about reading all the literary works of previous Leaders of the House.

There was even, after Wilson resigned, a mad couple of days when it seemed as if he might become Prime Minister. At one point, 150 votes, almost majority, were in prospect, and his supporters were excitedly planning a victory party. As it was, his 130 votes showed how much the party thought of him. He had to be given an important job.

Michael Foot himself would undoubtedly argue that what he is engaged in is a task well worth sacrificing temporary acclaim for. (He would possibly take the same line on India, where he has angered and disappointed many by his refusal to condemn Mrs Gandhi outright. He visits her instead, and his track record makes it unlikely he ever encouraged her in suspending democratic rights.)

As Michael Foot sits on the front bench, night after night, he has had to listen to young *Tribune* MPs like Neil Kinnock attack him and the Government's devolution Bill. Kinnock, a personal friend of Foot's, comes from Tredegar, where Bevan was born, and sits for the constituency next to Foot's own seat, and Bevan's old one, Cwm Taf. He must remind Foot a bit of Bevan. He must even remind him, sometimes, of the old Foot himself. Who speaks for Labour's future? Or will they both go down together into the margins of history?

David Leigh

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Why has Europe enthusiastically adopted the 20AX colour TV system?



a technological advance which represents more than twenty years research and development and marks a new era in television electronics design. No other 110° colour tube system in the world is so advanced.

What is the 20AX system?

It is the only fully self-converging slimline 110° tube system available for picture tubes in 18, 20, 22 and 26 inch sizes.

How do ordinary TV sets work?

Until now the inside of most colour TV screens has been coated with a million dots of red, green and blue phosphors, arranged in tiny triangles.

The dots become a colour picture when they are made to glow by firing beams of electrons at them from three electron guns housed in the neck of the picture tube.

The guns, one for each colour, are arranged, like the dots, in a triangle.

The beams are guided to their targets through thousands of tiny holes in what is known as a shadow mask. Getting

Because this new 110° colour tube system is the most important advance in set design since the arrival of colour TV itself. Tube bulkiness and circuit complexities have been 'designed-out'. The result? Slimmer, elegant, more reliable sets which warm up fast, maintaining a first-class colour picture over a much longer period. 20AX - it's known as 'Eurocolour' across the Channel - is a dramatically simpler way to get colour TV precisely right. It is

the triangle of beams to land precisely on a triangle of dots is known as convergence and, for a perfect picture, this has to be done across the whole screen, twenty-five times a second. To achieve this, many extra electronic components are needed and up to eighteen complex convergence adjustments have to be made before a set leaves the factory.

So how is 20AX better?

20AX gets rid of the complexities, using guns arranged in a line rather than a triangle, a slotted shadow mask, vertical phosphor stripes and a self-converging deflection yoke. The result is perfect colour registration from the centre of the picture right out to the

corners. The 20AX system achieves this automatically, eliminating many components and adjustments required in conventional sets.

What does this mean for the viewer?

For a start, the fewer the components, the fewer there are to go wrong. But there's more to 20AX than that. Not only does it give an excellent picture with perfect colour registration right out to the corners, but this quality is maintained for a long, long time. In other words, better picture quality and greater reliability.



Any other advantages?

Certainly, 20AX has the bonus of a 'quick warm-up' filament - which means a picture within about five seconds, without leaving the set plugged in on stand-by, which is safer and saves electricity. And the new Mullard 20AX 110° tube needs less space, so 20AX sets are slimmer than sets with conventional tubes.

What does this mean for Britain?

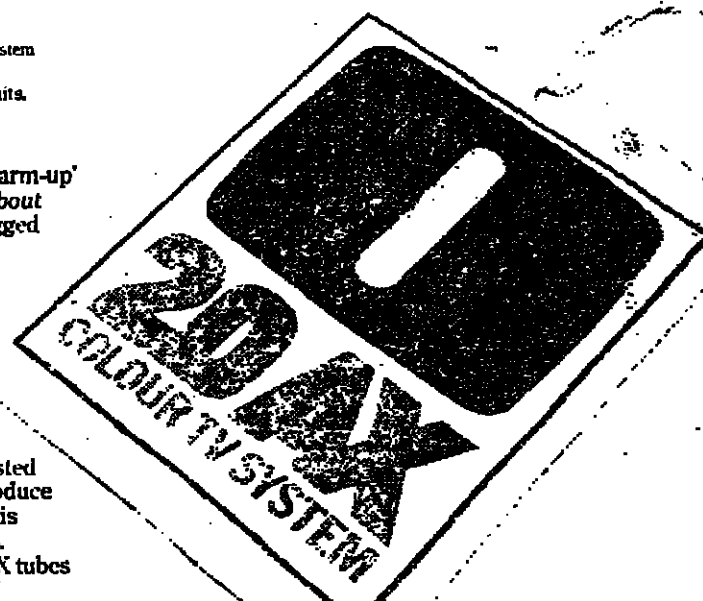
Mullard, now Britain's only TV tube maker, has invested £7 million in re-equipping three of its factories to produce the new tubes and components wanted for 20AX. This investment is already paying off in a number of ways. In 1976, in addition to the £6 million worth of 20AX tubes and components which Mullard exported to Europe,

British-made TV sets - using 20AX components from Mullard - were capturing a share of this discerning market. Europe demands sets which provide high reliability and embody the very latest technology. With 20AX British set manufacturers were well able to satisfy these requirements.

We are proud that 20AX is spearheading the British TV export drive for both the set manufacturers and Mullard. And, of course, on both counts British jobs are protected.

20AX looks like a great leap forward

It is indeed. So when you come to buy or hire your next colour TV, demonstrate your knowledge, ask the sales person about 20AX. You're bound to see the 20AX symbol in your TV showroom soon.



Mullard



مكتبة الأصيل

The dangers in
a price
freeze, Hugh
Stephenson, p 23

Treasury forecast offers hope for £1,000m tax cuts within IMF loan conditions

By David Blake

Economics Correspondent

With preparations for the March 29 Budget well advanced the latest Treasury forecast of the economy confirms that the Chancellor could give away in the region of £1,000m in tax relief without breaking the IMF limits on public borrowing.

The forecast, prepared each year to guide the Chancellor in his Budget deliberations, is also believed to predict that inflation by the end of the year will be lower than seemed likely in December when total public sector borrowing during the current year was possibly more than £1,000m less than predicted at the time of the IMF application.

Whitehall officials say that the Treasury forecast is "quite a few hundred million" of the £1,000m consensus forecast as the figure by which public borrowing the next year would be set in the IMF Letter of Intent, assuming policies remain unchanged.

That gives Mr Healey some room for manoeuvre in his decision to reduce income tax.

The Chancellor is committed to try to deal with the overlap which occurs between the standard rate of 35 per cent and the many means-tested benefits which have accrued.

A combination of tax bills and loss of benefits means that some people face very high marginal rates of taxation on fairly low incomes, a phenomenon known as the "poverty trap".

There seems to be three ways open to the Chancellor to deal with this problem: One would be to raise the standard rate of income tax, but this would be to raise the tax on those on much higher incomes than now gain from them, and to have them phased out more gradually as earnings rise.

David Blake

To do this in such a way that the poverty trap lost its bite would, however, result in means-tested benefits being paid to people on twice average earnings in some cases, which strikes at the very heart of the notion that these benefits are aimed specifically at those in most need.

A second solution would be to introduce a low rate of tax on some portion of taxable income, which in some ways would be a return to the old system where tax rates rose gently. Quite apart from the fact that such a scheme would be administratively complex it would also be very expensive if it were to be effective.

Because of this the third obvious option—increasing the allowances deducted from gross pay in order to work out taxable income—seems the most likely. This would be similar to Mr Healey's tactic last year.

Even this means would still involve quite considerable cost to the Treasury, but it would be a "fiscal drag" rather than a "fiscal drag" as it is still uncertain whether the Chancellor will decide to raise indirect taxes.

It is known however to favour a switch to direct taxes. The Chancellor's view is that changes over the years have brought many more people into the income tax net and operated in such a way as to erode the traditional argument against indirect taxes—that they are regressive.

Against this is the problem that raising indirect taxes has a more obvious inflationary impact. Since the trade unions are clearly very concerned about the way price rises are continuing after long periods of relative wage restraint, there may be pressure on him to peg indirect taxes if it helps to get a new round of pay policy.

On Wednesday this week Dr Hans Apel, the Finance Minister, will seek approval for a tax amendment Bill giving about DM3,000m (about £721m) per year in relief to business and roughly the same to individual taxpayers from the beginning of 1978.

The catch in the package is that it is conditional on Parliament, including the Opposition-dominated Upper House, approving a simultaneous 2 per cent increase in value-added tax.

The VAT rise will increase revenues by about DM12,000m a year, half of which will go towards consolidating public finances.

On the following Wednesday the cabinet is expected to give the final go-ahead to the DM10,000m to DM12,000m public sector investment programme, which is to be carried out by the federal and state governments and the municipalities in the period to the end of 1980.

It will also discuss and could adopt a new energy programme in which the Government will reaffirm its belief in the need for nuclear power and a reduction in Germany's dependence on imported oil.

The short-term impact of these decisions will be slight. The Government hopes that new orders worth between DM3,000m and DM4,000m can be placed this year under the investment programme, but inevitably there will be a delay before they can have an impact on industrial activity.

The most that can be expected from the energy programme is that it will help to bolster business confidence.

But the rush of decision-making will give Dr Apel and Dr Hans Friderichs, the Economics Minister, an opportunity to spread the optimism that is felt in Bonn about the state of the economy.

The Federal Bank in Frankfurt recently calculated that the German economy grew at an annual rate of 6 per cent in real terms on a seasonally adjusted basis in the final quarter of last year while the latest production figures show the seasonally adjusted index rising by a respectable 2 per cent between December and January.

Although this weekend Herr Schmidt, president of the Federal Republic, will be in the West German unemployment rate of 5.3 per cent, there are plenty of sceptics in West Germany, as well as abroad.

The powerful IG Metall union today backed the German trade union federation, the DGB, in calling for an injection of DM20,000m of public spending to combat unemployment, while on Saturday Professor Rolf Rodenstock, the vice-president of the German federation of industry, the BDI, forecast that the number of unemployed, now just over 1.2 million, would hover around the million mark for the next three to five years.

Washington talks on 'Downing St summit'

From Fred Emery

Washington, March 13

Mr Callaghan was still making his farewells here yesterday when high officials from seven allied countries set down to their first preparatory meeting at the White House for the May 7-8 economic summit in London.

By calling for "collective security" to march NATO's collective military security, the Prime Minister has invested what he calls the "Downing Street summit" with high purpose. President Carter, his officials say, is also bent on making it a signal success.

Participants at yesterday's meeting concluded their business in one day, rather than the two originally set. They cautioned that while preparations for London were being undertaken with greater thoroughness and intensity than those for the last summit, at Puerto Rico last June, a meeting where "great decisions" were taken was not in store.

In managing the world's economy better, they said, the executive decisions came at such political meetings—at the International Monetary Fund and the like.

Yesterday's discussions, described as "low-key" saw a first raising of the agenda issues that are self-evident: the concern over sustaining the rate of world economic expansion, and how best to keep going the three most powerful economies—American, German and Japanese.

Mr Callaghan left with the impression that Mr Carter was still prodding both the others to refocus.

The question of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries surplus, raised by Mr Callaghan in his rather gloomy analysis of continued slow growth unless policies were changed, was also understood to have been discussed.

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Inchcape floats \$25m Eurobond as authorities waive dividend curb

By John Brennan

Inchcape, the international trading group, has negotiated its way through the maze of Treasury regulations and secured exemption from the existing dividend controls.

The group is now free "to establish dividend policy by reference to normal commercial criteria" after this year, having already been granted Treasury permission to double this year's dividends following its £18m share and cash purchase of Lloyd's insurance brokers, Bain Dawes, last September.

Freedom from dividend controls has helped Inchcape to become the first British company in recent years to tap the international capital market with the announcement today of a \$25m (£14.7m) convertible Eurobond, issued through its Bermudan subsidiary.

This issue, backed by a forecast of 1977-78 profits ahead of market expectations at £7.5m pre-tax, is jointly managed by Credit Suisse, White Weld and Baring Brothers.

The managers expect no problems in underwriting the issue, which is convertible on or after October 1, 1977, at a premium of not more than 35p over Inchcape's shares at Friday's closing price of 350p. A 7 per cent coupon will be payable semi-annually.

Inchcape's success in getting the Treasury to release it from dividend controls could presage a flood of similar applications from other groups operating mainly overseas, such as London, Booker, McConnell, James Findlay, Unilever, and even United Kingdom-registered oil companies.

Inchcape's own decision to apply for exemption followed the successful appeal last autumn of its 15 per cent owned associate Ocean Wilsons, Ocean, and now Inchcape, have won exemption from the controls under rules originally set up to cover companies which, although registered in Britain, were overseas traders in taxation and currency control terms.

In 1975 the Treasury made clear that it would consider applications for exemption from mining and plantation companies which were only technically subject to the dividend restriction policy because of their domicile.

The Treasury's ruling on

the new stock is aimed at Continental and Middle Eastern investors who, Mr Caswell says, "simply do not understand dividend controls. Exemption from the restrictions will clearly help us set this issue away".

Financial Editor, page 23

predator holdings. So far there has been no apparent anticipation of buying or selling.

The second section of the Act speeds up the time allowed for disclosure of the acquisition of a 10 per cent stake, which could severely restrict predators' abilities to build up substantial holdings before they have to be declared.

Companies have shown considerable interest in the section which allows them to discover the beneficial holdings of shares. Any request, and its answer, must be declared with the shareholders' register, although, so far, the Stock Exchange has not made disclosure of such requests a condition of its listing requirements. Some voices in the City think it should.

Jobs are exempt from the 5 per cent disclosure rule, but are worried about the effects of another section of the Act, which comes into effect on April 18.

This requires disclosure of a director's dealings in his company's shares (and to the Stock Exchange) within five days. A jobholder might not be able to sell them on in that time, and disclosure could restrict his market.

Although there is a general welcome and considerable interest in the overall effects of the provisions, it is widely recognized that any shareholder who really wishes to remain anonymous will still be able to do so by using foreign nominees or finding other loopholes.

But the 1976 Act is regarded only as an interim reform of company law, while definitions for such problems as insider trading are still sought, and the effects of such disclosure may be wider than many believe.

Companies Act reform in effect on April 18

By Nicholas Hirst

Two of the most significant reforms of the 1976 Companies Act, which will radically affect the value of shares quoted on the Stock Exchange, come into effect next month.

The reforms call for much greater disclosure of share dealings, further attacking the activities of unscrupulous operators who "warehouse" shares secretly in order to spring a bid at a cheaper price than might otherwise be necessary.

From April 18 all companies will be able to demand to know who lies behind the nominee holdings on their share registers and will be able to flush out potential bidders.

Under amended listing requirements, as soon as a company is notified of a 5 per cent holding it must immediately pass the information on to the Stock Exchange. As such announcements are almost invariably made at the last minute, a rush of hundreds of declarations can be expected on May 5.

The Stock Exchange intends to publish them on its boards and keen interest in assessing the potential effect on prices is to be expected.

At the previous 10 per cent rule, 5 per cent disclosure will draw in many institutional holdings. The Prudential may have around 200 holdings between 5 and 10 per cent, while Throgmorton Trust which has specialised in taking sizable stakes in smaller companies has around 60.

Stockbrokers and merchant bankers will be watching closely for the disclosure of

the new stock is aimed at Continental and Middle Eastern investors who, Mr Caswell says, "simply do not understand dividend controls. Exemption from the restrictions will clearly help us set this issue away".

Financial Editor, page 23

predator holdings. So far there has been no apparent anticipation of buying or selling.

The second section of the Act speeds up the time allowed for disclosure of the acquisition of a 10 per cent stake, which could severely restrict predators' abilities to build up substantial holdings before they have to be declared.

Companies have shown considerable interest in the section which allows them to discover the beneficial holdings of shares. Any request, and its answer, must be declared with the shareholders' register, although, so far, the Stock Exchange has not made disclosure of such requests a condition of its listing requirements. Some voices in the City think it should.

Jobs are exempt from the 5 per cent disclosure rule, but are worried about the effects of another section of the Act, which comes into effect on April 18.

This requires disclosure of a director's dealings in his company's shares (and to the Stock Exchange) within five days. A jobholder might not be able to sell them on in that time, and disclosure could restrict his market.

Although there is a general welcome and considerable interest in the overall effects of the provisions, it is widely recognized that any shareholder who really wishes to remain anonymous will still be able to do so by using foreign nominees or finding other loopholes.

But the 1976 Act is regarded only as an interim reform of company law, while definitions for such problems as insider trading are still sought, and the effects of such disclosure may be wider than many believe.

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Financial Editor, page 23

Nube voices concern at bank staffs' 'recognition'

Intense rivalry between the National Union of Bank Employees (Nube) and the Banking Staffs Association reached a new pitch with the news that the Council of Bank Staff Associations (CBSA) has been granted a certificate of independence under the Employment Protection Act.

The CBSA claimed last night that it was a triumph, proving once and for all that despite accusations by Nube it was a truly independent body and not under the influence of employers.

The three staff associations that comprise CBSA membership—Barclays, Lloyds and National Westminster—have already been granted certificates. Mr Bob Carthy, general secretary of NatWest staff association, said there could no longer be doubt about the true independence of the bodies.

An immediate issue to be considered by the CBSA is how its position is affected, as it seeks to extend its membership to staff associations which have not been granted certificates. A significant benefit of being officially "independent" is that it gives access to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Mr Leif Ellis, general secretary of Nube, said last night that the certification officer's appearance to be a "maverick". Both Nationwide and Leek and Westbourne building society staff associations had been granted certificates, even though they employed nobody and had no reserves.

Yet the Bank of England Staff Association had been denied a certificate on the grounds that their reserves were too low.

Mr Mills added: "The CBSA might now try to set itself up as some sort of national outfit, but there are two inherent disadvantages: it will not be taken seriously by the Government, the TUC or the CBI, and its constituent organizations are loath to give power to the central organization, which prevents its development as a proper central body".

As has become cautiously involved in the conflict between Nube and the staff associations since protracted merger talks broke down early last year primarily because of a fundamental disagreement over the constitution of the proposed new body, Nube wanted power to be devolved to the centre; the CBSA wanted individual staff associations to maintain their autonomy.

There is increasing criticism of the criteria for testing "independence" or the purpose of a certificate, and the TUC has demanded action to halt the wave of successful applications from non-TUC staff associations and other employee bodies.

Another controversial application for an independent certificate—for the Confederation of Employee Organizations, whose membership consists entirely of TUC bodies—is still under consideration. The TUC has lodged an objection to the certification officer, Mr John Edwards.

Christopher Thomas

US demand lifts value of North Sea oil

By Roger Vielvoe

Energy Correspondent

Sharply rising demand from America for low sulphur crude has raised the value of oil from the British and Norwegian sectors of the North Sea by 25 cents a barrel on the open market in the first two months of this year.

North Sea oil is now a dollar a barrel above the prices last Christmas with spot cargoes from British Petroleum's Forties field fetching \$14.20 a barrel, and oil from the Phillips group's Ekofisk field in Norway commanding \$14.35 (£8.43) a barrel.

American buyers are concentrating their search for low sulphur oils on North Africa and Nigeria, but demand is outstripping supplies from these areas, and North Sea has been brought in as an alternative.

According to oil industry sources, Algeria, Libya and Nigeria, the main African producers, may be tempted to boost their official prices in line with the increasing value of their oil on the spot market.

A move along these lines would have even greater benefits for Britain's exports of North Sea oil, the bulk of which take place at the official prices of around \$14.05 a barrel.

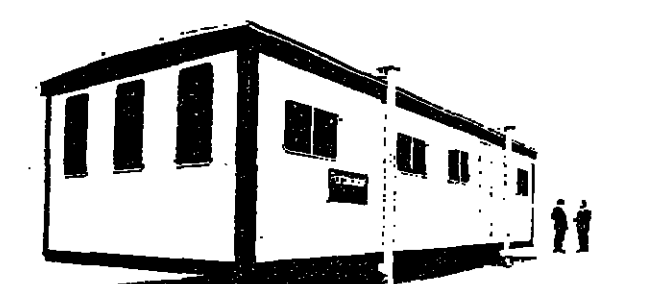
Only small amounts of North Sea oil are traded on the open market, but the price they command is an important indicator to the Government of what the companies like BP and Shell should be charging on their longer-term contracts with affiliates and third party customers.

The rise in the value of North Sea crude on the spot market has been spectacular. Last October it was fetching about \$13.00 a barrel and after a sudden rise in November, Forties crude was commanding \$13.30 at the end of last year.

Christopher Thomas

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BETT BROTHERS LIMITED

The Thirtieth Annual General Meeting of Bett Brothers Limited was held in the Angus Hotel, Dundee, on Friday 4th March 1977.

The following are extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman, Mr Albert A. Bett:—

ACCOUNTS: The Group Profit for the year ended 31st August 1976, after meeting all charges, including depreciation, but before providing for taxation, amounted to £2,344,213, as compared with £1,743,348 in the previous year.

After providing for taxation, the profit amounts to £1,141,002 as compared with £800,393 in the previous year.

The Directors recommended a Final Dividend of 0.8993p per share to be paid on 7th March, 1977, making a total distribution for the year of 1.5236p, per share, compared with 1.3851p (adjusted for Scrip Issue in March, 1976) for the previous year.

Certain Shareholders have waived the proposed Final Dividend aggregating £47,599 net, thereby reducing the total cost of dividends to the Company from £228,540 to £157,901, a saving of £70,639 (£1975-£64,217).

TRADING ACTIVITIES: The building industry has had a great deal to contend with during the year under review. The cut back in public expenditure has severely restricted the building programme of Local Authorities, especially in the housing and education sectors, and your Company has been obliged to operate under these difficult trading conditions. Competition has naturally been keener for the available work and profit margins can only be maintained by greater efficiency.

In the Private Sector, your Company has met a restricted demand for private houses, although our policy of paying particular attention to the design of smaller, low cost houses to attract, particularly, the first time buyer with limited finance and borrowing power, has assisted sales.

Despite the difficulties with which we have had to contend your Company's profits for the year under review have exceeded the estimate, and another successful year has been achieved.

FUTURE PROSPECTS: During this period of exceptional difficulty in our industry, where public expenditure and rate support grants are being further restricted, and where potential home owners are confronted with high interest and mortgage rates, together with a shortage of building societies' loans, caution must be exercised in predicting the future.

Your Directors, however, are confident that they will be able to secure a fair share of the available work.

In addition, examination of various means of diversifying the Company's activities is being undertaken and one area of current diversification is the acquisition and operation of licensed premises in the East of Scotland.

With the knowledge of the present work load, and the results achieved so far this current year, I can see no reason why, despite all the uncertainties, the Company cannot look forward to a further satisfactory year.

The Chairman, by way of additional statement, told shareholders—

Currently negotiations for acquiring three public houses have been concluded.

The acquisition of a fourth public house is currently under negotiations.

These premises are to be operated by a new company that is to be registered under the name of BETT INNS LIMITED and it is our intention to add to this list as and when suitable premises become available.

The meeting approved the Accounts and the proposed Final Dividend.

Retailers ready to contest TUC hard line on prices

By Derek Harris

Fears are growing in industry and commerce that strong demands by the TUC for tough price controls could leave little room for concessions in talks the Government's consultative document on future price restraint.

The TUC, which has already successfully persuaded the Government to retain much of the existing price control system, is expected to submit its comments on the consultative document during this week.

The economic committee has already suggested that an interval between price rises, possibly as long as 12 months, should be fixed.

Direct powers to freeze prices should be given to Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, it was also suggested.

This hard line from the TUC does not bode well for the negotiations on the consultative document which the Retail Consortium and later the Confederation of British Industry, are to have with Mr Hattersley.

The Retail Consortium, particularly, will put up a tough fight for some concessions to its members. It is particularly concerned that new powers of investigation for a revamped Price Commission will be restricted only in the case of price rises in the case of 12 months.

man for the EEC. There is now intense diplomatic activity to get the Americans and the Japanese to come into line with the Community position.

This position has not been publicly disclosed. However it is understood that the Community would be prepared to agree to a common fund if its main purpose was to act as a clearing house for transferring money between individual negotiated commodity prices rather than intervening directly to raise material prices as the developing countries would like. Whether the common fund would have financial resources of its own is also an issue that the Community is now prepared to discuss.

Establishment of a common fund was one of the main demands of the Third World countries last year at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Nairobi. Although resistant to the idea, West Germany, Britain and the United States joined other, smaller industrialized nations in agreeing to the Geneva negotiations. Since

Hope for world commodities body

By Melvyn Westlake

Prospects for an agreement on a new world body to support commodity prices have brightened, appreciably by the adoption by several key industrial states of a more accommodating approach to the international bargaining now taking place in Geneva.

Although the gap between the bigger industrialized nations and the main block of developing countries over setting up a so-called common fund is still very wide, there now appears to be every chance of a large step forward during the month-long negotiations which began a week ago.

An important breakthrough came last Tuesday when Britain managed to get the nations of the European Economic Community to agree to a positive joint opening position for the Geneva talks. This enables concrete proposals to be made by Mr John Steele, deputy Under Secretary at the Department of Trade, who is both leader of the British delegation and presidential spokes-

man for the EEC. There is now intense diplomatic activity to get the Americans and the Japanese to come into line with the Community position.

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Business appointments

Three corporate finance directors named by Chase Manhattan Bank

Mr Donald C. Roth is to join Chase Manhattan (Asia) as executive director in charge of corporate finance for the Pacific basin area. Before joining Chase, he was a senior vice-president in the corporate finance department of Merrill Lynch, based in London. Mr John Walker-Haworth becomes an associate director in the corporate finance department. He is a former senior member in the corporate finance division of Citicorp and Company. Mr Ore Lindemann has joined Chase Manhattan Ltd in London as an associate director, responsible for Eurobond placing activities. He was formerly a partner in James Capel and Company.

Mr John Clement, chief executive of Unigate, is to become chairman and chief executive in September after the retirement of Sir James Barker, who will also be leaving the board.

Mr Andrew Swan has been appointed to the board of Cosalt. Mr E. C. Hawkins has joined the board of Hawkins and Tison.

Mr John Paterson has been made financial director and company secretary of Adams Foods.

Mr P. Roberts has become a director of Steeley.

Mr W. R. Merton has succeeded Mr M. F. Berry as chairman of United States and General Trust Corporation.

Mr Keith Wardle and Mr John Bedford have been made joint managing directors of Birstall Foundry.

Mr J. B. McCuckian has been appointed a director of London and European Group.

Mr J. M. Carpenter has been made deputy chairman of Carrels International. Mr J. P. Crossley remains vice-chairman and has become deputy group chief executive.

Mr J. H. Webb, deputy general manager and principal actuary, UK division, has been made actuary to Commercial Union Assurance. Mr Kenneth Allen, general manager and chief actuary, will retire on April 30.

Mr N. A. Stokes, formerly finance director of AE Auto Parts, becomes deputy managing director of Hepworth & Grandage by Mr J. Clayton joins the board and both join the board of A. E. (Sales). Mr J. L. Hepworth has been succeeded as chairman of Hepworth & Grandage by Mr J. Winstanley, a director of Associated Engineering, the parent company, and managing director of its cylinder components.

Mr C. Ackroyd becomes managing director of Hepworth & Grandage. Mr George Duncan has been appointed to the board of City of London Brewery and Investment Trust.

Mr Christopher Morgan has been named sales and cigarette marketing director of Gallaher. Dr C. D. T. Minton has been made managing director of DMI Opelha, in succession to Mr P. J. Allen, who is retiring.

Mr Raymond Davies, the Post Office director of Telecommunications pay and grading, is to be director of management development. He takes over in June, succeeding Mr John Morris, who is retiring.

Mr Davies will be succeeded by Mr David Savill. Mr Robert Reid has been appointed a director of British Transport Hotels in place of Mr H. C. Sanderson.



Mr John Clement (left) chief executive of Unigate, who is additionally to become chairman in September; Mr J. M. Carpenter (right), who has been made deputy chairman of Carrels International.



Mr Raymond Davies (left) who takes over as the Post Office's director of management development in June; Mr B. H. Nicholson (right), who has joined the board of Rank Xerox.

Mr R. Dickinson has been made director of research at BAC military aircraft division. Mr S. Gillbrand becomes director of manufacturing. Mr P. Millett, Mr A. N. Rhodes, Mr A. T. F. Simmons and Mr B. Wright have been made special directors.

Mr Dermot J. Hurley has been appointed director, employee participation and communications, Chrysler UK.

Mr Robert Howe joins the board of Associated Tooling Industries.

Dr George Somerville will succeed Dr E. Rowe as director of research and development of the Cement and Concrete Association from April 1.

Mr J. R. M. MacLeod has been appointed to the main board of Prestolite Holdings as planning director. He was formerly managing director of Searle Manufacturing, acquired by Prestolite last year.

Mr A. C. V. Owen, director of engineering at Searle, takes over as managing director.

Mr Tony Acton and Mr Alan Grantham have been appointed vice-chairmen of Cross Courtenay.

Mr Ernest Marshall has been made managing director of Cory Sand & Ballast. He succeeds Mr A. G. Ellis, who is to retire.

Mr B. H. Nicholson has joined the board of Rank Xerox as director, European region.

Mr Leonard Grouse has been appointed to the board of Wigham Poland Holdings and will also be chairman of Wigham Poland (L. & P.).

Mr David Evans, previously non-executive chairman of Wigham Poland (L. & P.), will now concentrate solely on his duties as a director of Wigham Poland UK.

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Recession exposed weakness in Limburg's 'painless' conversion

Limburg, the southern Dutch province, is a very untypical part of the Netherlands. Geographically it is isolated from the rest of the country, extending south to form a narrow political isthmus surrounded on three sides by Belgium and West Germany. It is also hilly and there is hardly a windmill to be seen.

From 1900 to 1973 Limburg was a typical coal mining area. Empty pithead buildings and abandoned spoil heaps still stick up from the rolling countryside as monuments to the industry that converted a largely rural area into a densely populated industrial region.

When the last colliery was closed in 1973 the Dutch Government and provincial administration could congratulate themselves on an apparently painless conversion of Limburg's economy from a coal mining base to a modern and varied industrial structure.

Since then, however, the oil crisis and the recession have exposed weaknesses that show that Limburg still has some way to go before it can claim parity with the most advanced industrial regions in the Netherlands.

Unemployment in Limburg is now running at about 8.5 per cent compared with a national average of 5 to 5.5 per cent. Only the north-eastern province of Drenthe has a higher jobless rate.

Weaning Limburg off its coal mining base was no easy task. At their peak after the Second World War, the coal mines were the direct employers of 50,000 men. Supporting industries employing many thousands more.

When, in 1965, it was finally decided to close the pits over the following eight years, there were still 45,000 men in the Limburg mines. By way of contrast, the working population today numbers around 240,000, of whom 100,000 are in industry.

Government assistance in the form of tax allowances and investment incentives attracted around 100 companies to the area, creating around 20,000 new jobs.

Much of the industrial and commercial settlement has been on a relatively small scale, the establishment of a large car plant at Born by the Daf car group—now a part of the Volvo concern—proving the exception rather than the rule.

The restructuring of industry created problems, many of which became apparent only during the recession.

Outside companies, many of them from abroad, often embarked on a process of backward integration, setting up sales outlets and waiting before establishing assembly and manufacturing plants.

Mr Peter Nutting and Mr John Williams have become directors of N. Bentley Securities. Mr Nutting becomes chairman of both companies.

Mr Stanley Lyon, a deputy chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, is to retire from the board on March 31.

Mr Peter R. Boyd-Smith has joined the board of Consolidated Safeguards.

Mr John Gattwick and Mr Michael Shute have become non-executive directors of Geo Bassett Holdings.

Mr E. R. Basset and Mr D. S. Middlehurst have joined the board of United British Securities Trust.

Brooke Bond Liebig and Gill & Duffus Group have completed the arrangements to merge their three subsidiaries.

Lloyd's broking subsidiaries, Peek & Partners and B. Leonard Puckle & Co—into a single company to be known as Peek Puckle.

The board of directors will be as follows: Mr D. D. Martin (chairman); Mr D. M. Berland (managing); Mr J. S. Carrick; Mr C. L. Cope; Mr J. I. Cousins; Mr J. A. Hunt; Mr T. W. Ingles; Mr D. H. Mitchell; and Mr T. C. M. O'Donovan.

Regional industry in Europe

Such structures proved to be particularly weak in times of recession.

The Limburg Development Bank, LIOF, maintains that there have been few outright failures of newly settled companies during the recession. But undoubtedly many companies in Limburg owe their continued existence to support from either the Government or their bankers.

The recession has also cast a cloud over the outlook for future industrial expansion and diversification.

But the present economic condition of Limburg and its general outlook would be far gloomier were it not for the activities of DSM—formerly known as the State Mines.

DSM dates back to 1902, when the Netherlands government set up a limited company, Staatsmijnen, in Limburg to mine for coal in competition with the private foreign-owned mining companies which had first opened up the Limburg field.

Fortunately, as it turned out, the company diversified in the 1930s into coke and coal gas production, cost-based chemicals and building materials.

When, by the 1960s, the future of coal was beginning to look uncertain, DSM was already switching its chemical activities to an oil base. Since then the group has expanded rapidly.

Group sales last year were around 9,500 million guilders (nearly £2,300m) or 10 times the level in 1966.

Today, about half of DSM's annual turnover comes from chemicals. It employs 32,000 people worldwide, with about half in Limburg.

But chemicals are capital intensive rather than labour intensive. Although DSM is still Limburg's largest employer, it has expanded its overall workforce appreciably from a low of around 20,000 in 1970, it can never assume the overriding importance as a provider of jobs that it had in the coal era.

The Limburg economy will therefore continue to need support.

Peter Norman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An example of successful trade union representation in the boardroom

From Sir Iain Stewart

Sir, As one of the few chairmen in the private sector of United Kingdom industry (via the Fairfields national proving ground experiment 1966-68), who has had practical experience of working with trade union directors and one form of the two-tier board system, I believe that union representation should be encouraged. May I add some comments to the current debate.

Since apprenticeship days on Clydeside in the 1930s the inevitable need for industrial democracy has been obvious, and I continually regret that employers generally have been so slow to take the initiative in promoting it. Their weak retreat in the face of militancy during recent years, and political intervention through legislation such as *In Place of Strife* and the Industrial Relations Act, have simply created bitterness and transferred more and more strength to the trade unions which some have abused and others would wish to put to better use if provided with an appropriate platform.

The new policy board, which took over the bankrupt Fairfield Shipyard, embraced trade union representation (two directors) which was supported by investment, while the executive board, which was responsible for implementing policy, invited three trade union conveners to attend as observers. The tripartite board, which was responsible for implementing policy, invited three trade union conveners to attend as observers. The tripartite board, which was responsible for implementing policy, invited three trade union conveners to attend as observers.

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All concerned were determined to generate profit through increased productivity and eventually a dividend.

Whatever conflicting rumours may say—and there are many—the truth is that after 18 months of what should have been a five year experiment, full cooperation from the unions, six of whom changed their rule books to invest in equity, for the first time in British history. By mid-1968 we were able to project a certain profit of at least £300,000—a figure which was agreed by five sets of leading lawyers, accountants and merchant bankers. In addition many employees were prepared to invest their savings in the enterprise but were not able to do so due to the pending disastrous merger of the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders.

Reliable two-way communications, trade union participation in the board room, combined with investment, plus trade union involvement with executive management without responsibility for management decisions, were key factors in the administrative structure and had begun to stimulate new attitudes combined with an increasing unity of economic purpose.

To escape from the current environment of inflation, stagnant productivity, low return on capital, price controls and other statutory restrictions, it is now vital to stimulate manufacturing in all spheres of commerce, as it also is to train those who will require to apply their minds to the many ramifications.

Yours faithfully, IAIN STEWART, 53 Drayton House, 53 Drayton Road, Glasgow G61 2RN. March 8.

Unemployment in Limburg is now running at about 8.5 per cent compared with a national average of 5 to 5.5 per cent. Only the north-eastern province of Drenthe has a higher jobless rate.

Weaning Limburg off its coal mining base was no easy task. At their peak after the Second World War, the coal mines were the direct employers of 50,000 men. Supporting industries employing many thousands more.

When, in 1965, it was finally decided to close the pits over the following eight years, there were still 45,000 men in the Limburg mines. By way of contrast, the working population today numbers around 240,000, of whom 100,000 are in industry.

Much of the industrial and commercial settlement has been on a relatively small scale, the establishment of a large car plant at Born by the Daf car group—now a part of the Volvo concern—proving the exception rather than the rule.

The restructuring of industry created problems, many of which became apparent only during the recession.

Outside companies, many of them from abroad, often embarked on a process of backward integration, setting up sales outlets and waiting before establishing assembly and manufacturing plants.

Mr Peter Nutting and Mr John Williams have become directors of N. Bentley Securities. Mr Nutting becomes chairman of both companies.

Mr Stanley Lyon, a deputy chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, is to retire from the board on March 31.

Mr Peter R. Boyd-Smith has joined the board of Consolidated Safeguards.

Mr John Gattwick and Mr Michael Shute have become non-executive directors of Geo Bassett Holdings.

Mr E. R. Basset and Mr D. S. Middlehurst have joined the board of United British Securities Trust.

Brooke Bond Liebig and Gill & Duffus Group have completed the arrangements to merge their three subsidiaries.

Lloyd's broking subsidiaries, Peek & Partners and B. Leonard Puckle & Co—into a single company to be known as Peek Puckle.

The board of directors will be as follows: Mr D. D. Martin (chairman); Mr D. M. Berland (managing); Mr J. S. Carrick; Mr C. L. Cope; Mr J. I. Cousins; Mr J. A. Hunt; Mr T. W. Ingles; Mr D. H. Mitchell; and Mr T. C. M. O'Donovan.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Politics, speculators and the commodity markets

Not much has been heard of late about the call from Mr Jack Jones, head of the Transport and General Workers' Union, for a complete price freeze when the present phase of prices and incomes policy ends in June. Instead, the limelight has fallen on the TUC economic committee's pressure for price restraint in the public sector and on Mr Benn's evident political discomfort at being the man whose lot it is to overrule the Price Commission and order gas price increases.

But all are part of the same central problem, namely the complex process of deciding what price is required to achieve what sort of formal pay restraint in phase three and whether that price is so high as not to be worth it.

The Government's most recent formal statement of its position on this subject is that "it is indispensable to maintain in force a control over prices, if pay policy is to continue to make its key contribution to solving our economic problems". (See last month's column on a new price policy.)

That statement is highly conditional. If a majority were successfully to argue that a continued tight pay regime next year would create as many economic and industrial problems as it would solve, then the need for a tight formal price policy as a necessary condition for getting agreement with Mr Jones and the TUC would be removed.

All trade unionists might like to look at the situation from the other end. From a less honourable man than Mr Jones the call for a price freeze would have looked like so much bluff, designed to create a prior condition which could not be met but which would shift the blame for the trade unions, if and when the next phase of pay policy failed to materialize.

But Mr Jones is not the kind of man who would shuffle off of a difficult issue in such a way. It would seem that he was reacting to what seemed to him the facts.

For some time prices have been rising faster than average earnings. This has become an increasingly powerful

argument in the case against another year of wage restraint. Would it not take the steam out of the next round of wage demands if prices could be frozen or held down hard for a period?

While no one can say with any conviction what would now help to control inflation and unemployment further, it can be surely said that a general price freeze would fall into the category of remedies which make the patient worse. The impact of such a freeze on employment levels and on investment in new plant and machinery, or on inward direct investment from overseas, would be serious.

The administrative burden of "policing" a freeze and allowing for the huge category of inevitable exceptions and special cases would be daunting.

Sensing all this, the TUC economic committee seems to have decided to concentrate on price restraint in the public sector. In doing so, it seems to have formed a highly opportunistic alliance with the Conservative opposition which, sensing a popular winner, has decided to attack the gas price increases.

There are special aspects to the gas price issue, but in general a decision to single out nationalized industries for extra restraint makes no sense. The fact is that in a period of general inflation all prices are likely to have to rise, unless they are subject to special supply and demand factors, or unless the production technology involved is changing rapidly.

If it is artificially prevented from making a proper adjustment, a particular good or service will find itself subject to artificially high demand and to ever-increasing operating losses. The difficult question is to decide what is a proper adjustment.

It seems increasingly clear that the old Price Code, operated rigidly by the Price Commission, is unlikely to produce sensible answers.

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Lord Inchcape, chairman of the company.

Rowntree Mackintosh's debacle in cocoa turned on the hope of its dealers being able to use their buying power to control the market, while more recently the sharp rise in tin prices has been ascribed to rumours of cornering—certainly in the tin market in the past operators have been able to squeeze cash prices when three-month values have shown no underlying shortage.

Of course attempts to clip the speculators' wings, such as raising the deposit rules, could diminish London's role as the focal centre of world commodity trade though again several brokers tried to choke off excess speculative demand back in 1974 by increasing deposits to 20 per cent of contract values in some instances.

Certainly in the much more speculative American markets, it has been deemed necessary to introduce controls along the same lines as the Securities and Exchange Commission for equities.

London's fears that curbs will divert business elsewhere is perhaps more apparent than real given the failure of other markets to develop at all—confidence is so important a factor that Paris's hopes of becoming a commodity centre were probably dashed entirely by the white sugar fiasco two years ago.

Yet there is still a case for a thoroughgoing review of the commodity markets if only to destroy once and for all the view that they are little more than a casino. A Select Committee of the House of Lords is currently finalising its report on the workings of commodity markets but that is no substitute for the Royal Commission that the last Labour administration was on the point of setting up, or something along the lines of the Wilson Committee.

Shorter term, however, the government may still be considering taxing speculators' profits at income tax rates rather than capital gains tax rates in the forthcoming Budget.

Diesels

Fashionable engineering

The potential growth in the worldwide production of diesel engines since the quinquennial of the oil price has been popularised by the heavy investment plans of Lucas, made fashionable by the explosive growth of Weyburn Engineering, and used as partial justification for Associated Engineering's bid for Serck.

But like most vogues that set the stock market alight, the great diesel boom is not quite what it seems. For a start

United Kingdom production of diesel engines in the past two years has actually declined and the most often quoted example of the diesel phenomenon, Weyburn Engineering, has owed its growth more to a straightforward exercise in the rationalization of small volume production with sensible pricing and reliable delivery than to any really sharp increase in demand.

Associated Engineering's fast growth from profits of £9.2m in 1974 to a projected £30m for the current year has been created by a shift to higher margin business, but this is as true of automotive replacement sales as it is of diesels.

Undoubtedly both Associated Engineering and Lucas saw the potential of the diesel engine, with its increase in efficiency over the petrol engine of at least 25 per cent, at the time of the oil crisis, but growth has been greatly added by the general recovery from recession, and, in particular, by the sharp rise in oil prices last year.

Commercial vehicles are undoubtedly on a cyclical upswing although European growth is unlikely to show the sharp increase it showed last year, but the Lucas investment in diesel injection equipment agreed in 1975 of £35m, which is now mostly spent, expresses a faith in a more solid growth market than is supplied by a return from recession by commercial vehicles.

This faith is based on the potential gains of substitution of petrol for diesel engines, especially in the United States.

With the growth in demand for stationary engines for power generation from developing countries total demand for diesel engines is estimated to accelerate from about 6 to 8 per cent per year by 1980, but the projections are far from certain and a change in the relative price of oil would throw them into doubt.

Hawker Siddeley has already proved a major beneficiary of stationary engine demand, although its share price, of 52½p is reflecting nationalization prospects, and increased demand will be Serck's heat exchanger business.

But with Hawker, as with most other diesel engine and component makers, the potential is best seen as a supportive influence rather than a growth leader.

Inchape

Justifying a premium rating

Forecasting near doubled pre-tax profits of £7.5m; confirming the forecast dividend increase to 15.285p gross; and launching a United States \$ convertible Eurobond at 7 per cent that will cut more expensive short and medium-term foreign currency debt but which involves only around 5 per cent equity dilution on full conversion, will underlie Inchcape's bid for Serck.

But news that it has won exemption from dividend controls will underlie it still more. The Treasury's friendly interpretation of the controls may mean that its offices will now be besieged by other overseas traders, at least those whose efforts to avoid unrelieved Advanced Corporation Tax have not resulted in a significant increase in their British earnings.

As far as Inchcape is concerned, it is forecasting ample earnings to support a higher dividend next year. 1977-78 profits are expected to produce an 81.9 per cent increase in earnings to 40.55p a share, four times the promised net dividend. Scope for a rising yield fully justified the shares' premium rating at 100 on a prospective p/e ratio of 8.5 and prospective yield of 4.4.

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A remedy that makes the patient worse?

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Hugh Stephenson

Hauling Massey-Ferguson out of the mire of labour unrest

Clifford Webb examines the tensions that led to the 11-week strike which has just ended at the midlands tractor plant

several times in the preceding months. Indeed, the management claim it is established custom and practice in the Coventry plant.

The trade unions on the other hand regarded it as a lockout in clear breach of the procedure agreement. This was the key reason why all three unions involved—the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the Transport and General Workers' Union, and the smaller Metal Mechanics—declared the stoppage official and backed their members with strike pay varying from £9.10 per week for engineers, to £6.50 for transport workers.

The company would have none of this. They said that by not giving reasonable effort the men were in breach of their contract of employment. They further point out that when on previous occasions workers were taken off the clock, shop stewards gave assurances of improved performance in the future.

Coventry is one of the cornerstones of Massey's worldwide operations. It accounts for more than 20 per cent of its entire farm tractor production, and is a very profitable operation.

But as Mr Roland Jennings, managing director of Massey-Ferguson UK, said recently: "If we are to protect the future of Coventry as an assembly operation, both within Massey-Ferguson worldwide and in the face of strong foreign and domestic competition, it is absolutely essential to establish realistic working standards for the new tractor range".

On a number of occasions

during the dispute, he offered to resolve the 48 tractor issue by introducing demonstration teams or "any other agreed independent assessors".

If the men had accepted this offer, he says, the whole issue could have been settled with out a stoppage and disastrous losses to all.

But such was the men's openly declared lack of confidence in management that even this apparently commonsense solution was greeted with suspicion. A shop steward summed it up when he said: "They wanted us to do 48 per shift while the independent assessors timed us. What they were really trying to do was to trap us into demonstrating that we could do 48 per shift".

The peace formula produced last Thursday is merely a palliative designed to enable both sides to claim a victory and is really a complicated proposal to speed up the dispute procedure.

Clearly the gap between the two sides at Massey has become so wide and relationships so soured that only a fundamental reappraisal of methods of work and systems of payment can produce a long-term solution.

In the view of many experienced observers, that means getting rid of piecework. But to do that Massey will have to "buy out".

A move along these lines was stopped in its tracks by the first official pay freeze. It is certainly not possible within the confines of the present Phase Two controls but it could be an early candidate for inclusion in a more flexible approach when Phase Two ends in July.

Bristol Waterworks Company



FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF BEATING THE DROUGHT

The cost to the Company of maintaining an uninterrupted water supply during the 1976 drought and the continuing effects of inflation are commented upon in the statement circulated by the Chairman of Bristol Waterworks Company, Mr A.N. Irens CBE, with the Report and Accounts to be presented at the 131st Annual General Meeting of Stockholders on Monday, 4th April 1977.

*Emergency measures to extend the distribution network and the positive co-operation of consumers in saving water enabled the Company to maintain supplies without rationing and to limit to a few months the ban on the use of private hoses and other non-essential uses.

*With the present full storage and the permanent benefit of the distribution improvements, we are confident that even if we have another major drought this year we shall have no critical supply problems as a consequence.

Expenses up 20%

*The Accounts show a deficit on the year's working of £156,000, mainly through circumstances impossible to foresee when the year's budget was prepared - the additional costs and loss of income caused by the drought, about £600,000. The balance carried forward is reduced to £538,000. This sum is not sufficient to provide protection against unexpected developments and it has therefore been considered necessary to build it up again from water rates and charges in 1977.

*In 1976 gross revenue was up by £952,000 (10%) to £10,573,000.

*Working expenses up by £1,128,000 (20%) to £6,601,000.

*Total costs up by £1,675,000 (18%) to £10,709,000.

*Average daily consumption of water for the year was 285 megalitres (65 million gallons) a substantial reduction compared with previous years.

*Stringent control restricted capital expenditure to £2,574,000 including the cost of anti-drought measures amounting to £260,000.

Financial outlook

*It is hoped that a more stable financial position may be achieved by the end of 1977 so as to enable the Company to avoid increases in charges in the future at anything approaching the levels necessary this year.

*Referring to the Government's intention to nationalise the statutory water companies, Mr Irens points out that during the drought not one of the water companies had to resort to rationing. The happy position achieved by Bristol Waterworks Company, he says, was due to the Board's foresight in planning ahead, particularly on a regional basis with other authorities in the early sixties in the construction of a river regulating reservoir at the headwaters of the Severn, and providing treatment plant and transmission pipelines to make full use of that additional supply.

*The plan to remove the so-called "anomaly" of the private statutory water companies can only be regarded as doctrinaire politics. The existing arrangements work well and no one would have thought that in the present grave economic situation there were more private matters to be dealt with by the Government.

WATER Bristol Waterworks Company, Bridgwater Road, Bristol BS99 7AU.

Business Diary in Europe: Casino royal • Benn and Brussels

Casinos will be spread out on the map of Spain like chips on a roulette table by next summer after a royal decree which does away with the Franco regime's ban on all gambling other than the national football pool, certain lotteries, betting at the track and specially authorised raffles.

Foreigners, as well as Spaniards, are already queuing up for casino licences. They are expected to be set up mostly on a grand scale, with a preference for tourist areas. While no applications have yet been considered, strictly speaking, because the regulations are still being drawn up by a new interministerial committee. The Playboys Club of London is one concern known to be interested in Spanish operation, as is the band leader Xavier Cugat.

Officials at the Ministry of Information and Tourism have also received approaches from gambling interests in France, Italy, Austria, The Netherlands and, of course, the United States.

Foreign participation in ownership will be limited, but the limits have yet to be set.

Most of the Spanish "pre-applications" come from the municipal councils of tourist towns and cities, like Palma de Mallorca, the Balearic Islands, the Costa Blanca, Marbella on the Costa del Sol, Sitges on the Catalan coast, San Sebastian and Santander on the Bay of Biscay, and Las Palmas, Puerto de La Cruz and Fuerteventura in the Canaries.

A version of their own Gam-

During the renegotiation of Britain's EEC membership, few Labour ministers were so exasperated in the Community as Tony Benn, who was generally depicted as a wild-eyed bogey man fanatic opposed to the market and all its works.

Since then, ironically, he has come to be one of the most favourably regarded of British ministers, and high hopes are entertained of his chairmanship of the EEC's Council of Energy Ministers during the six months of the British presidency of the Council of Ministers.

One clue to this change is the remarkable rapport Benn appears to have established with Guido Brunner, the EEC Commissioner responsible for energy and scientific research and a German Free Democrat.

Ever since he returned from a visit to London earlier in the year, Brunner has been bustling anyone in control with glowing accounts of Benn's openness and determination to find solutions to the EEC's differences over energy policy.

The assiduous cultivation of personal contacts with his EEC colleagues undertaken in travels round European capitals also

ing Board is to be established. Taxation will be on the French model, allowing the state to take up to half of the gross income.

Lastly, to make it easier for foreigners to lose their shirts the Spanish are expected to allow gamblers to take home their winnings in the same currency as that with which they bought their chips—or even in some other foreign currency.



Benn and Brunner: is the Englishman really again the tribe that lives around Brussels?

seems to have stood Benn in good stead. "We find all this rather exceptional", commented one somewhat bewildered EEC official.

This goodwill will be put to the test on March 29 when Benn is due to chair his first meeting. Officials in Brussels are hoping that he will be able to remove British objections to a long-planned scheme for raising

cooperatively owned banks. But the June, 1974, law on the house, which set up the Commission, failed to make any provisions for its future existence.

Its demise seemed likely when a court ruled in March, 1975, in a case brought against Urbano Llerri, president of the Milan Bourse, that stockbrokers could not deal in any of the

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Mercatino. The case was brought by a financier with a grudge against Llerri.

The Mercatino went underground and its shares were traded in an informal, almost clandestine way, among banks, without publicly quoted price lists or other safeguards for the small private investor.

That will now change, with the publication in the official gazette of Law 49, which restores official recognition to the Mercatino, and allows stockbrokers to deal in its shares. In the Mercatino, they can then be considered only for cash. The detailed regulations have to be issued within four months, so a little time will pass yet before it gets going again.

An advantage to which stockbrokers are looking forward is that it may serve as an anteroom for new shares seeking a listing on the Milan or other exchanges. If these pass satisfactorily a period of "running in" on the Mercatino, they can then be considered for admission to, say, the Milan, which is the biggest stock exchange but today still lists only 171 equities.

How cheering to note that the European Commission has at last abandoned all hope of imposing Eurobond and Euro-becr, because "public reaction was so strong as to make any regulation impracticable".

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Profits adequate but weak pound and high interest rates bring problems.

REGISTERED OFFICE: 54 LOMBARD STREET,
LONDON EC3P 3AH REG. NO. 48839.

Freight report

[illegible]

	Latest price	Prev. week
between 1970 and 1971	60 1/2	60 1/2
A month's price	60 1/2	48 1/2
ence.	33 1/2	52 1/2
European	58 1/2	58 1/2
and short-term	18 1/2	17 1/2
significance.	72 1/2	72 1/2
A good	55 1/2	55 1/2
ink of S.	54 1/2	54 1/2
scholarship	55 1/2	55 1/2
the	55 1/2	55 1/2
of common	55 1/2	55 1/2
F-A	55 1/2	55 1/2
pected	55 1/2	55 1/2
nually	55 1/2	55 1/2
nerous	55 1/2	55 1/2
ting	55 1/2	55 1/2
of	55 1/2	55 1/2
pet	55 1/2	55 1/2
enur	55 1/2	55 1/2
ures	55 1/2	55 1/2
and	55 1/2	55 1/2
ne	55 1/2	55 1/2
it	55 1/2	55 1/2
icators)	55 1/2	55 1/2

Barclays Bank	104 1/2	Handl. Co. L'n 10
Consolidated Credits	113 1/2	Neuhaus 7 1/2
First London Secs	114 1/2	Neuhaus 7 1/2
C. Hoare & Co	114 1/2	Neuhaus 7 1/2
Lloyds Bank	104 1/2	Neuhaus 7 1/2
Midland Bank	104 1/2	Neuhaus 7 1/2
Nat Westminster	101 1/2	Neuhaus 7 1/2
Roosminster Acc's	111 1/2	Neuhaus 7 1/2
Shenley Trust	14 1/2	Neuhaus 7 1/2
Williams & Glyn's	101 1/2	Neuhaus 7 1/2

* 7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under, 8% up to £25,000, 9 1/2% over £25,000, 9%.

**NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF
TELEDYNE, INC. WARRANTS**

Attached to
Teledyne International N.Y.
C.V. Reaffirmed Guaranteed
Securities Date October 1, 1988
On February 14, 1977, a 3% Com
mon Stock dividend was declared
payable on May 14, 1977, to hold
ers of record and entitled to
Common Stock on March 14, 1977.
The number of shares of Common
Stock purchasable pursuant to the
exercise of each warrant is there
by increased from 11,576 shares
to 12,876 shares, and the Pur
chase Price per share is decreased
to \$24.125 per share from
\$24.475 per share.

RIC COMPANY

TELEDYNE, INC.

M. J. H. NIGHTINGALE & CO. LIMITED			
62-63 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8HP, Te			
Contract 2000 c	Company	Price last Friday	Change on week
1,700	Aalsprung Ord	34	—
293	Aalsprung 18 1/2 CULS	117	—
700	Aarsnagde Rhodes	28	3
1,302	Deborah Ord	97	8
216	Deborah 17 1/2 CULS	108	17
4,180	Henry Sykes	49	2
11,041	James Burrough	80	6
2,234	Robert Jenkins	219	25
3,205	Twinklock Ord	15	—
1,640	Twinklock 12 CULS	60	12
2,394	Unilock Holdings	55	6
4,485	Waher Alexander	71xd	5

Issue of 575,000
12% Convertible Redeemable Cumulative
Preference Shares 1977/86 of £1 each at par
Yielding The Equivalent of 18.46% gross

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock
Exchange for admission to the Official List for the above
Securities.

Particulars of the Preference Shares are available in the Extel
Statistical Services and copies may be obtained during usual
business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and
including Monday, 28th March 1977 and from:

DEE STOOP PIM VAUGHAN
1 Great St Thomas Apostle
Queen Street
London EC4A 3BH

PARSONS & CO
100 West Nile Street
Glasgow G1 1QU

DAWNAY, DAY & CO., LTD
31 Graham Street, London EC4A 7DT

acted. Brokers indicated that the surplus of tonnage in the Caribbean was still keeping some rates low while in the Mediterranean, the amount of new inquiries shown towards the end of last week brought promise of good business ahead.

The main feature of the dry cargo market was the strength of inquiries from the Far East which easily overshadowed the still relatively quiet amount of grain chartering done out of North American.

Although the latter perked up a little, last week's rates remained stubborn and showed no indication of rising.

The bright spot of the week, the announcement of a 2 million ton grain deal between China and Australia, was hoped to bring more voyage business to the market in the future. The grain is due to be delivered between June this year and January 1978.

David Robinson

On three days last week De Beers was the most actively traded over-the-counter stock in New York both before and after the announcement of the preliminary report of notification of the price increase.

Interest in the stock in the United States has been growing since December as some of the more optimistic advantages of the sharehold-ers' plan have been publicized.

Very high yield and also the very solid nature of the business. There is a strong balance sheet with a high cash element." De Beers also has assets outside the United States, including mines in London and stakes in other companies such as Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting, which gives the United States investors a measure of the protection they seek.

year, a paltry 1.55 percent overall in 1975 and 2008 at per cent last year. The latest increase is the largest (apart from currency fluctuations) in the history of the pound.

What is more, the market has been benefiting already from an effective price increase in "pushing the market into a new era of stability," says Mr. Griffiths, a market analyst.

price ratio—have allayed the political risk fears in some areas, although of course the preliminaries acted as a catalyst.

A week ago today in New York trading ran at 145,400 shares, while on Tuesday, when the year-end figures leaked out in New York, the level rose to 388,800 before jumping to 541,400 with profit-taking the following day and then back to 348,000 shares on Thursday.

By comparison trading the previous week had started at 55,000, dropping to 41,800, then rising to 74,000, and then doubling to 114,600 and then more than doubling again to finish

Mining

Of course, that does not mean that everybody is jumping on the bandwagon. Mr Schager reports that the bulk of the shares in the recent trading have gone to people who do not have too many investment commitments looking over their shoulders. In institutions with several layers of bureaucratic decision making, a suggestion to go for De Beers frequently gets

bordeline categorization pushed up into a bracket, while the real case when the market weak.

So while De Beers made R451.5m compared R216.8m on the account following the CSO sales of R135.5m, the figures show considerably better than following both the CSO and the price of rising and the CSO is to cope with demand higher returns from producers.

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the week at 247,600 shares. As the volume rose it would appear that somebody had to find a reason other than the fact that the results of the turn-of-moon test that those good friends the Russians, of all people, had been buying up the stock. It is generally accepted that the Russians are pretty well entrenched in the world of finance and that they are not likely to be thrown when they see it, but that really does seem to be carrying the idea a little too far.

Enthusiasm for the shares is understandable for when they were languishing at around \$190-200, one can presume they were discounting just about everything. Now they are a little more respectable 246p and still offer scope for good capital appreciation plus a good dividend although the shares do not appear to have reached a temporary peak.

Mr. Kees Schager, of New York brokers Arnold and S. Fischbroeder who specialize in foreign securities, tells me that "Europeans or Americans" one of the key players in the market, had chopped somewhere along the line as the fears of political instability in Southern Africa are brought up.

But, as Mr. Schager points out, with the sheer size and diversity of the United States, the system can cope with the ultra cautious institutions.

The figures for last year showed just how well De Beers can handle the rough market, but the 15 per cent increase in diamond prices also demonstrates that the market is still gaining momentum. Since the sensible *raison d'être* for the Central Selling Organisation in the marketing of rough diamonds is the smooth functioning of the market, the CSO holds back from price increases when the market is weak and advances prices with confidence when the market is strong.

Such a course is discernible from the price movements over the past few years. In 1973 there were four price increases (including one to compensate for the devaluation of the pound) and in 1974 there were three. In 1975, however, there were only two price increases. The provisional data also indicates that the market last year was a diamond stock (at cost) declined from R304-R227.5m—worth 50p a share, at an "at cost" valuation—consistently more at a valuation. At the same cash rose from R187-R470.3m, worth another share.

The one aspect about De Beers that few people have heard about is the Canadian-American, the fact that De Beers is issuing the Randseel writing.

Most people want De Beers for the diamonds and anything else unless it is a diamond, the fact that De Beers is in for the R80m under the right but, all the same, if it stumps up anywhere no amount its cash resource hardly be strained.

And, as De Beers a good buy.

Desmond O.

Commodities

modern techniques, having spent 16 years perfecting a system which has been shown to be consistent against marketing research with an error of 3 to 5 per cent.

The Institute said that sample information was taken from around 4,000 coffee establishments in the country.

Comprehensive is the term which can best be applied to a new work, Wolff's Guide to the London Metal Exchange (*Metal Bulletin Books*; £20), which has been published to commemorate the LME's centennial.

In its chapters there is all the information to know about the development and working of the LME, with sections on hedging in general and in practice; option trading; investing in the market; and a section of advice on how to speculate in the

Lever, for certain metals commodities, such as copper, lead, zinc, sugar, coffee, tea and rubber, the markets are influenced by the Bank of England's supervises these markets improving its surveillance that it can, with their cooperation, take the necessary steps to curb speculation should it arise.

"The Government is confident that this improvement be secured on a voluntary basis in accordance with the sense and public spirit which the City is accustomed to respond on issues kind."

"The professional operator and those investors who respond to catching advertisements in the newspapers and the speculation will have no

Reuter reports from Washington.

He said he had discussed with high officials of four cabinet ministries approaches ranging from escalating tough talks with producer nations to building-up a domestic coffee stockpile, if and when prices dipped sufficiently to justify such action.

But he acknowledged that prices would have to retreat sharply from present levels before a stockpile scheme could be effected.

Apart from denying allegations that it has used its export tax to maintain coffee prices at artificially high levels, Brazil has also been perturbed about United States criticism of the Brazilian Coffee Institute's final crop estimate for 1976-77 of six million 60-kilo bags.

The United States Agriculture Department (USDA) has put the price at 9.55 per bag, and a Coffee Institute spokesman has said that Brazil does not know how USDA makes its survey, but Brazil takes the greatest

chance.

In an official view of the London commodity markets, Mr Harold Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, writes on the need for a speculative speculator and adheres to his previously expressed opinion that speculation, within reasonable limits, is healthy for the markets.

However, Mr Lever points out that it can happen that the general run of speculators, trading independently and in the simple exercise of their commercial judgment, take a similar exaggerated view of the likely movement of prices and buy or sell accordingly.

He says that speculators are temporarily creating a illusion of monopoly, even though they are not acting in any conspiratorial concert. The result is the usual consequence of monopoly—a sharp one-way movement in the price which unseles producers and consumers while it lasts.

"That is a situation of excessive speculation, and it must be

that they must operate in tandem with the public interest. But it is a central public interest that the limits of speculation should always aim at the free market."

Mr Lever writes that the attempt by the Government to the Bank to eliminate all speculation on the London market would be ineffective. The key to the success of the policy, which allowed the speculator to perform his function of linking producers and consumers against adverse price variation.

The real loser would be Britain's balance of payments, with the commodity price rise eating away at the amounting to around £100 million an average year. The Government's aim, writes Mr Lever, is to preserve this country and to increase it.

Mr Freddie Wolff, chairman of Rudolf Wolff, justifies the guide as a

Wallace Jackson

[illegible][illegible]

Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

Account Days: Dealings Begin, Today. Dealings End, March 25. Contango Day, March 28. Settlement Day, April 5.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

Weatherall Green & Smith
Chartered Surveyors Estate Agents
London Leeds Paris Nice Frankfurt

DOUGLAS
CIVIL ENGINEERING & BUILDING CONTRACTORS
BIRMINGHAM CARDIFF GLASGOW LONDON
STOCKTON-ON-TEES SWANSEA WIGAN

Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company
BRITISH FUNDS																								
British Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	British Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	British Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	British Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	British Fund
British Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	British Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	British Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	British Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	British Fund
COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN																								
Commonwealth Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Commonwealth Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Commonwealth Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Commonwealth Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Commonwealth Fund
Commonwealth Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Commonwealth Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Commonwealth Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Commonwealth Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Commonwealth Fund
LOCAL AUTHORITIES																								
Local Authority Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Local Authority Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Local Authority Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Local Authority Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Local Authority Fund
Local Authority Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Local Authority Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Local Authority Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Local Authority Fund	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Local Authority Fund
FOREIGN STOCKS																								
Foreign Stock	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Foreign Stock	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Foreign Stock	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Foreign Stock	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Foreign Stock
Foreign Stock	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Foreign Stock	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Foreign Stock	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Foreign Stock	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Foreign Stock
DOLLAR STOCKS																								
Dollar Stock	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Dollar Stock	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Dollar Stock	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Dollar Stock	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Dollar Stock
Dollar Stock	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Dollar Stock	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Dollar Stock	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Dollar Stock	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Dollar Stock
BANKS AND DISCOUNTS																								
Bank and Discount	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Bank and Discount	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Bank and Discount	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Bank and Discount	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Bank and Discount
Bank and Discount	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Bank and Discount	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Bank and Discount	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Bank and Discount	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Bank and Discount
C-E																								
C-E	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	C-E	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	C-E	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	C-E	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	C-E
C-E	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	C-E	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	C-E	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	C-E	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	C-E
BREWERS AND DISTILLERIES																								
Brewer and Distiller	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Brewer and Distiller	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Brewer and Distiller	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Brewer and Distiller	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Brewer and Distiller
Brewer and Distiller	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Brewer and Distiller	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Brewer and Distiller	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Brewer and Distiller	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Brewer and Distiller
SHIPPING																								
Shipping	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Shipping	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Shipping	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Shipping	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Shipping
Shipping	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Shipping	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Shipping	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Shipping	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Shipping
FINANCIAL TRUSTS																								
Financial Trust	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Financial Trust	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Financial Trust	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Financial Trust	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Financial Trust
Financial Trust	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Financial Trust	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Financial Trust	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Financial Trust	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Financial Trust
MINES																								
Mine	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Mine	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Mine	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Mine	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Mine
Mine	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Mine	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Mine	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Mine	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Mine
THE TIMES SHARE INDICES																								
Times Share Index	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Times Share Index	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Times Share Index	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Times Share Index	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Times Share Index
Times Share Index	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Times Share Index	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Times Share Index	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Times Share Index	12.10	+0.05	1.20	9.9%	1,200,000	Times Share Index

